

England Notch
Second Win



Picture Dated Oct. 23, 1995 of Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, 76, Has Been Admitted to Hospital in Serious Conditions, Said Sources in Hanoi, Nov. 16

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IRAN NEWS

Mohammad Adelaziz Hamdan, the Palestinian Prisoner for Whom the Israeli Shin Beth Has Obtained Special Permission by the Israeli Supreme Court to Use "Physical Pressure" During Interrogation



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VOL. III, No. 607 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Monday November 18, 1996, Aban 28, 1375, Rajab 6, 1417

Iranian MPs Urge 'Reconsideration' of Ties with Germany

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Two hundred Majlis (Parliament) members urged the Iranian government yesterday to reconsider its ties with Germany after German prosecutors accused Iran's leaders of assassinating political opponents.

State-owned radio said that about 200 of the 271 members of Parliament endorsed a letter which was sent to Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri. The letter said that "Bonn does not deserve friendly ties with Tehran."

"The German Judiciary has been turned into a political theater aimed at insulting Iran's sacred Islamic regime," the letter said.

"We, the deputies, urge the Foreign Ministry to prepare a report on the move taken to reconsider ties with Germany and submit it to the Majlis," it added.

Prosecutors Friday demanded life imprisonment for the suspected killers. An Iranian and four Lebanese have been on trial in Berlin for over three years and a verdict is expected in January.

A statement issued by Islamic revolutionary groups in Tehran universities described the trial as "ridiculous" and the accusations as a "direct insult to the most sacred personality of the Islamic world." Iran's Islamic militia, known as the Basijis, "will not remain quiet toward such an offense," it warned, according to IRNA.



Thousands of students march on Tehran's streets chanting slogans against Germany.

Students March to German Embassy

Thousands of university students marched to the German Embassy here yesterday, in protest against a German prosecutor's accusations that Iran ordered the killings of Kurdish dissidents in Bonn, IRNA reported.

More than 100 police kept back the protesters, who threw eggs and tomatoes at the embassy, chanting "Death to Fascist Germany," and "Death to Pro-America Germany." An organizer said over a loudspeaker that the demonstrators, estimated to number around 5,000, would have entered the embassy and pulled down the German flag had it not been for

their "respect for the police."

The students marched on the embassy from Tehran University mosque after performing prayers, IRNA reported. Police apparently made no arrests, according to reports.

A German prosecutor last week accused Iranian leaders of ordering the deaths of three senior Kurdish opposition figures and their translator at a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

Tehran has denied any role in the killings and protested on Thursday to Bonn over the charges. German prosecutors on Friday demanded life sentences for an Iranian and a Lebanese.

Syria Says Palestinian Territories "Explosive"

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AFP) - Syria yesterday attacked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy of "occupation" particularly in the West Bank town of Hebron and said the situation in the Palestinian territories was explosive.

"The situation in the occupied territories is explosive because of the position and practices of Netanyahu's government on occupa-

tion and its refusal to implement the accords concluded between the previous Israeli government and the Palestinians," the Syrian government daily Tishrin said.

"The attempts to modify the Hebron Accord by imposing unfair and disgraceful conditions for the Palestinians clearly show Israel's lack of seriousness and its desire to continue the occupation

See Page 13



An uneasy situation in the West Bank as the security forces are on alert.

Germany Says Will Keep Cool Over Iran 'Accusations'

BONN (Reuters) - The German Foreign Ministry said yesterday it would keep cool after Iran blasted Germany as a "political midget" and questioned Tehran's extensive trade ties with Bonn.

The comments from Tehran came after a German prosecutor accused Iran on Friday of ordering the killing of Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

"We are keeping a cool head," a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry told Reuters.

"Nothing has changed since Friday and we are not going to speculate," the spokeswoman said when asked if Germany thought its relations with Iran would change.

"We cannot say anything more," she added.

Iranian television said in a commentary on Friday: "Despite economic superiority and alleged leadership of Europe, Germany is politically no more than a midget."

Potentially at risk are trade ties worth \$1.4 billion last year.

Benazir Intelligence Official Held in Murtaza Murder Case

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Pakistani police yesterday arrested Masood Sharif, former chief of the country's intelligence bureau in connection with the killing of Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, officials said.

Sharif was handed over to the crime branch of the police and an "investigation is under process" at a local police station, they said.

The former intelligence chief and eight other senior police officials including the local Police Chief Shoaib Suddle were accused by Murtaza's party men of being involved in the killing.

Murtaza, 43, and his seven colleagues were killed in a police

shootout near his Karachi residence on September 20.

Police have already arrested Wajid Durrani, in charge of the operation in which Murtaza was killed, while two other police officials have absconded.

Suddle has obtained interim bail from the Sindh High Court.

Lawyers for Murtaza's widow, Ghinva Bhutto, appearing last month before a judicial tribunal formed by the previous government, have alleged the involvement of the former premier's husband Asif Ali Zardari, ex-interior Minister Naseerullah Babar and Sindh province's former Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah, in the killing.

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3rd Iran-Russia Round-Table Talks to Be Held in Tehran

BY MOJIB AN TAVASSOLI
TEHRAN - Third Iran-Russia round-table discussions are to convene here November 23-24, Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Affairs Abbas Maleki told IRAN NEWS here yesterday.

This round of talks will revolve around the axis of such issues as current developments in Russia, Islam in Russia, shift in Russia's foreign policy toward the Middle East, the role of Iran and Russia in the new international order, joint interests, and a clear-cut plan for cooperation, he said.

The Russian delegation will be headed by the first deputy minister of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) who is accompanied by former Duma representative, deputy president

of the Diplomatic Training Center, and several academic and defense authorities.

The first round-table discussions were held in early 1996 in Tehran and the second in late 1996 in Moscow, dealing with issues such as prospects for promotion of bilateral ties, strategic and nuclear cooperation, stances of the West, affairs of Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Caspian Sea.

On the Caspian Sea littoral states meeting held last week in Ashkhabad, he noted. "This was the first meeting of the Caspian

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SUMMARY




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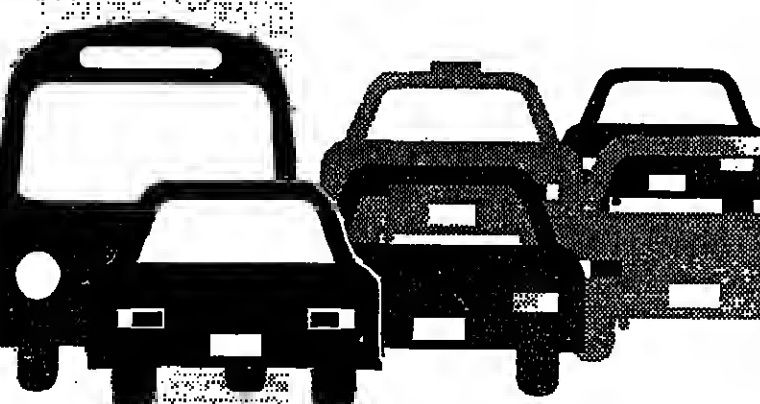


Office of Traffic Control



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Traffic Surveillance Headquarters



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Electronic Access Tel: (0092-21) 273 9724
P.O. Box: 15115-833
**No. 41, Lida St., Vali-e Asr Ave,
North of Vanak Sq., Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed in Kayhan**

EDITORIAL

Befitting Response to Germany, A Must

Anti-German feelings in Iran have taken a new turn, becoming highly sensitive and alarming. Some 200 lawmakers called on the government of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to "reconsider" the ties of the Islamic Republic with Germany.

Another equally important development was a massive protest march by the Iranians yesterday which concluded in front of the German Embassy. The protesters voiced serious anger against the German government.

These anti-German feelings surfaced after the German prosecutor insulted even the top authority of the Islamic Republic which is in no way acceptable to the Iranian nation.

The massive protest, the speeches of the officials, and commentaries in the media are clear indications that Iranians attach prime importance to the values of the Islamic Revolution and will not tolerate any insult to their Leader at any cost.

On the one hand, the German prosecutor intolerably insults Iran; on the other hand, the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl remains indifferent.

The German attitude is contrary to the Iranian policy which has been benevolent toward Germany from the very early days after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

It was Germany, which under the pressure exerted by the United States, decided to abandon the under-construction nuclear power plant in Bushehr in which over \$1 billion had already been invested. The Germans even went so far to withhold key blue prints and technical documents related to the nuclear plant which is meant for peaceful purposes.

The Iraqi-imposed war-time memories are still fresh for the Iranians, when German firms supplied murderous gas to the Baghdad regime which targeted innocent and defenseless civilians of the Islamic Republic.

The war ended, but Germany did not even speak about the brutality committed by its companies against the Iranian nation. On the other hand, when Iraq used the same German-supplied lethal weapon against Israel, Chancellor Kohl himself flew to Tel Aviv with an 800-million-mark check and an apology to the occupying regime.

Germany adopted the antagonistic stance against Iran at a time when that country's companies were enjoying lucrative business in the Islamic Republic.

While German companies were enjoying maximum possible profits from business in Iran, Bonn was not even buying crude from here as it was expected.

As Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said the German government has crossed the red line. It is thus necessary for Iran to give a befitting response to Germany which could serve as a moral lesson not only for Bonn but also for others who could dare display a stupidity similar to that of the German prosecutor.

Habibi Meets Foreign Officials

BY KHOSROW SOLTANI
ROME, ITALY - Visiting Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi, here for the U.N. World Food Summit which ended yesterday, held separate meetings with senior officials of Sudan, India, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Kazakhstan.

Habibi discussed expansion of Iran's relations with these countries during meetings on Saturday. He is heading a high-ranking delegation to the summit, organized by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In a meeting with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, the vice president expressed his satisfaction over the establishment of peace between Sudan and Uganda.

Al-Bashir thanked the Iranian government and President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for their aid in settling the dispute, and added that the best way to counter U.S. pressure was the consolidation of friendship among all Islamic

states.

In a separate meeting, Habibi and Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda both emphasized the need to confront the hegemonistic policies of foreign powers in the region and to settle the critical situation in Afghanistan.

Multilateral cooperation among regional states would lead to peace and security in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean regions, Habibi told the Indian prime minister.

Gowda praised Iran's efforts to solve the Afghan crisis, and said New Delhi supported Iran's stance on Afghanistan.

In another meeting, Habibi reviewed regional and international developments with DPRK Deputy Prime Minister Kong Jin Tae.

Tae thanked the Islamic Republic for its humanitarian aid to the people of the DPRK, and called for an exchange of experience between the two countries.

In his talks with the Kazakh deputy premier, Habibi underlined the need to establish peace and sta-

bility in Central Asia and in Afghanistan. Both officials called for further strengthening of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The Kazakh official condemned interference by foreign powers in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and complimented Iran on its efforts to solve the crises in regional states, including Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Habibi also met Saturday with Malta's new Prime Minister Alfred Sant, and the two officials announced their intention to set up an Iran-Malta joint economic commission and parliamentary cooperation.

Habibi referred to the history of relations between the two countries, saying the climate was right for further cooperation between Tehran and Valletta. He said Iran could help Malta rebuild its economy.

Sant called for expansion of economic, political and technical cooperation, saying Iran should

use Maltese ship-building technology.

In another meeting, Habibi met with Italian Iranologists and called for direct and constant contact between international Iranologists and the Science Academy of Iran.

"You scholars cannot trust the news broadcast by foreign media about the developments in the world of Islam and Iran, but rather you are required to consider the existing facts in the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Iranian official said.

Habibi said the Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature had resumed activities and planned to provide a large collection of literary works from renowned poet Rudaki, who lived in the fourth century (about 11 A.D.), to contemporary poets.

He invited the Iranologists and instructors of Persian language in Italy to become members of the Iranian academy, and to establish closer contact with Iran.

The Nation Aims to Eliminate Poverty, Speaker

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri on an inspection tour to Kurdistan Province told IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting) employees in Sanandaj that the enemies of Islam intend to taint the Islamic values and to separate the youth from the Islamic culture and it was the duty of IRIB to counter such evil propaganda.

Addressing the morning ceremonies of the joint staff of the armed forces at Tohid Base, Sanandaj, the Speaker called on the army to consolidate both their military and ideological powers.

He said as long as true Islam, the edicts of the late Imam and a spirit of non-reconciliation with arrogant powers exists, no enemy plot can prevail in Iran.

Addressing a conference of the administrative council, Nateq-Nouri said the amendment made in the Poverty Elimination Law will be ratified in near future.

He expressed hope that poverty

would be wholly eliminated in the country in the near future.

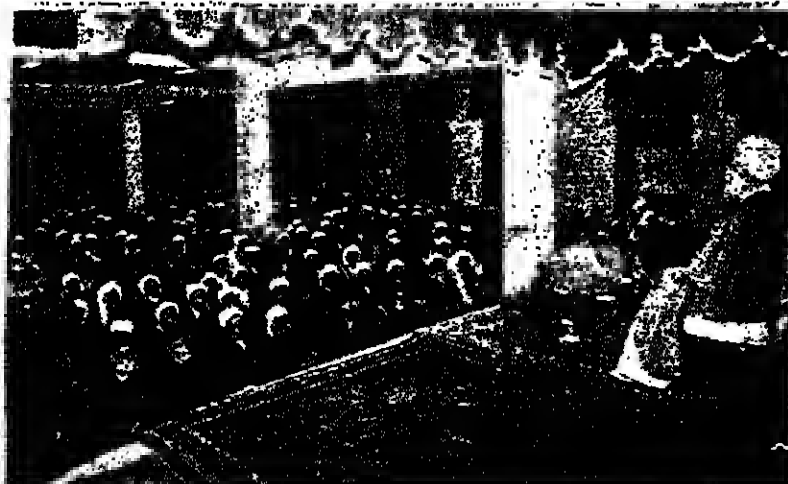
Nateq-Nouri said establishment of manufacturing plants, expansion of technical and vocational workshops and investment in handicraft industries would boost the economy of Kurdistan Province and create new jobs.

Elsewhere, in a congregation of villagers, the Speaker said Kurdistan Province could be turned into a most important export center if enough investment is made in food processing and side industries there.

"Peasants are the main producers of the Islamic Republic and despite the fact that the condition of villages and infrastructural services have improved remarkably, villagers regrettably continue to immigrate into towns," the Speaker said adding that by creating jobs and providing the daily needs of the people and improving their economy, immigration of peasants to towns would cease."



PHOTO BY HATAMI



Galician President Meets Velayati

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The visiting president of the autonomous region of Galicia, northwestern Spain, met with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here yesterday.

Manuel Fraga Iribarne said he found Iran an active, dynamic and energetic country after visiting various parts of it, IRNA reported.

He added that Iran's move to connect the region to the outside world through its national railroad network was a valuable step which would lead to the economic development of the region.

Velayati said that the rapidly changing world political situation had provided new grounds for cooperation among nations, and that these needed to be identified and used properly.

The Iranian official added that the Islamic Republic welcomed a broadening of cooperation between Spain and Central Asian and Caucasian states through

Iran.

Iribarne arrived in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian government on November 13, heading a large business delegation. His visit centers on economic cooperation, particularly in fisher-

ies.

Among the presidents of the 17 autonomous Spanish regions, Iribarne, a former tourism minister,

is the first to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRNA reported.



TEHRAN - Fraga Iribarne (L) with Velayati

(Photo by Moradi)

60b-Rial Damage by Floods in Mazandaran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The recent floods have inflicted 60 billion rials of damage on five cities and 90 villages of Mazandaran Province, the manager of the provincial Natural Disaster Headquarters, Rahmatollah Ahmadi said Saturday.

The official added that some 10,030 residential units, 239 development and infrastructural projects, 4500 hectares of farmland, four warehouses and six poultry farms have been damaged and six people in the cities of Sari, Babol and Neka lost their lives.

He added that the provincial cities of Sari, Babolsar, Fereidun Kenar, Babol, Gaem Shahr and Neka were among the cities worst hit by the floods.

Two villages and some parts of Fereidun Kenar are now underwater, he added, IRNA reported.

مکاتب الأهل

Officials

IRAN DOMESTIC NEWS

Canadian, Tajik, Turkish Ambassadors Submit Credentials to President

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The new Canadian, Tajik and Turkish ambassadors to Tehran separately submitted their credentials to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here yesterday.

Canada's Ambassador Charles Michel de Salaberry hailed Iran as an outstanding and important regional country, enjoying the richest and the oldest civilization and culture in the world.

Salaberry said that since Iran is located at the heart of a strategic region, Canada favors further expansion of its economic and commercial ties with Iran.

President Rafsanjani in reply wished success for Salaberry and said there was no obstacle on the way of expanding Tehran-Ottawa ties. He said that Iran welcomed further broadening of ties and cooperation with Canada.

Tajik Ambassador Tashmat Nazirov said that Tajikistan appreciates Iran's important role in maintaining and strengthening regional peace and stability.

Nazirov said that Iran and Tajikistan share a common language, which could pave the way for expansion of their cultural and educational ties.

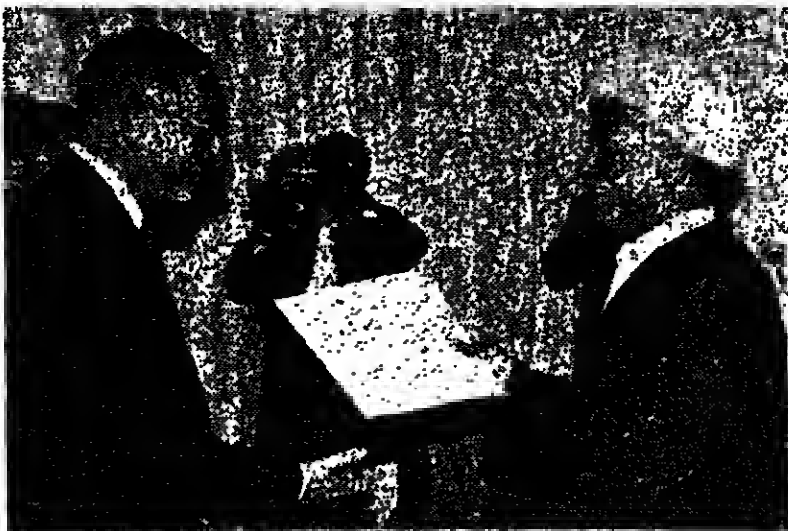
He also voiced his country's keenness to deepen relations with the Islamic Republic. He extended Tajik President Imomali Rakhmanov's invitation to President Rafsanjani to pay a state visit to his

country.

President Rafsanjani, touching on the significance of establishing peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan, said that the ground would be prepared for trilateral cooperation among three Persian-speaking countries of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan following establishment of durable peace and security in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The new Turkish Ambassador Osman Koruturk told President Rafsanjani that Turkey attaches great importance to improvement of ties with its neighbor, Iran.

Koruturk said that peace and calm have prevailed along the Iran-Turkey borders for centuries. He said that for his country, promotion of Tehran-Ankara relations is a



Canadian ambassador (L) presents his credentials to Rafsanjani.



Turkish ambassador (L) presents his credentials to the President.



Tajik ambassador (L) presents his credentials to the President.

(Photo by Abdi)

must.

He also extended an invitation to President Rafsanjani on behalf of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to pay a state visit to Turkey.

The President said in response that Iran and Turkey enjoyed great potential for having mutual cooperation more than any other two countries of the region. He said that Iran and Turkey should make optimum use of their highly excellent economic growth, technical and industrial development and geographical location for expansion of ties.

President Rafsanjani called on officials and political representatives of both countries to re-

main vigilant vis-a-vis the efforts being made by certain alien elements to mar 'friendly' ties between Iran and Turkey, IRNA reported.

Iran Prefers Islamic Sanctities to Any Diplomatic Relations

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said here yesterday that honoring the sanctities and values of Iran is more important than any kind of political and economic relations with any country.

He was referring to the unfounded accusations leveled by German judicial officials at Iranian authorities. He said the so called Mykonos Court has made the biggest sacrilege to the world of Islam and the Islamic sanctities.

Iran could never overlook such treatment and the German government is required to make good on it, he said.

The foreign minister said that in accordance with the international criteria, relations between the countries are defined on the basis of mutual respect, adding, "We will deal properly with any country that violates the sanctities of the Islamic Republic and ignores the red line of the Iranian nation."

Velayati reiterated that Iran has formulated its diplomatic relations with other countries within the

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN
SURA 59, THE GATHERING (AL-HASHR)
In the Name of God,
The Beneficent, the Merciful

5. Whatever you cut down of trees of dates,
Or left them standing on their roots,
All was by God's permission,
So that He brings upon the evil-doers,
A shameful degradation. (F.N.)

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:50
Evening (Maghreb)	17:17
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:08
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:44



VELAYATI

framework of its Islamic and national values, and since the victory of the Islamic Revolution has proved the nature of its diplomacy.

He said that countries including Germany which have relations with Iran should have learnt that no exception is allowed in this respect. He pointed to the fictitious accusations of Mykonos Court.

Velayati said the German government is responsible for controlling those who have embarked on such unlawful actions under any

excuse. He added that according to the civil legislation of almost all countries the heads of states of other countries should not be insulted and that the German court has violated the international norms and made statements contrary to the internationally-recognized principles.

He said, "Absolutely, what took place at Mykonos Court is a dirty work aimed at implicating judicial proceeding with politics."

Elaborating on the proceedings of Mykonos Court, Velayati said the court has made use of two desperate and bankrupt individuals as witnesses.

Velayati said that one of those witnesses is wanted for crimes and terrorist acts against Iran and for hijacking an Iranian plane and the other on espionage charges.

Mykonos Court has based its accusations on the testimony given by the two "political fossils" that have become isolated and unaware of the developments in Iran, he said, according to IRNA.

President Rafsanjani's Message Delivered to U.A.E. President

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's Vice President Hadi Manafi met with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, in Abu Dhabi yesterday. He delivered him a message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The U.A.E. president referred to the common historical, cultural and social bonds shared by Iran and the U.A.E. He emphasized on the necessity for expansion and strengthening of relations between the two states.

Manafi, who is also the head of

the Environment Protection Organization, arrived in Dubai on Saturday and was greeted by a number of high-ranking U.A.E. officials as well as Iran's new Ambassador to Abu Dhabi, Hussein Sadeghi, IRNA reported.

President Congratulates Omani, Latvian Counterparts

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Hojjatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sent messages of congratulation to Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed of Oman and President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia on the occasion of the National Day of the countries, November 18.

President Rafsanjani in his messages expressed hope that Iran's cooperation will be upgraded with the two countries in political, economic and cultural fields, IRNA reported.

Iran, Poland Sign Letter of Understanding

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The visiting Polish Minister of Regional Planning and Construction Ms. Barbara Blida and the Iranian Minister of Housing and Urban Development Abbas Alunad Akhondji in their meeting here on Saturday inked a letter of understanding on exchange of experience in the fields of housing and urban construction projects.

In the meeting, the two sides agreed on encouraging the two countries' private sectors and engineering companies to participate

in either countries' construction plans.

While here the Polish minister met and conferred with the Iranian Ministers of Commerce Yahya Ate Eshaghi, of Industries Mohammad Reza Nemazadeh and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. She also met and discussed with some of the women representatives of the Iranian Majlis.

During her stay in Tehran she also inspected some under construction residential units and construction material factories.

Iran-Spain Relations Friendly, Satisfactory

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Minister of Interior Ali Mohammad Besharati received incoming President of the autonomous region of Galicia, Spain, Manuel Fraga Iribarne and discussed issues of mutual interest.

He said there was full understanding between Tehran and Madrid and termed relations between the two nations as fraternal and satisfactory.

Referring to many points of common interest between the two nations, Besharati said within the framework of Ministry of Interior, the two countries could cooperate with each other in fighting drugs, extradition of criminals, Interpol and other security matters.

"Mass production of narcotics and its distribution in some countries threatens the health and integrity of communities," the minister warned.

He said since the creation of Islamic Republic, Iran has co-ordinated a widespread campaign for purification of the community from drugs and has taken serious



TEHRAN - Iribarne shakes hands with Besharati (R).

(Photo by Moradi)

measures to disband smugglers and stop transit of narcotics from Iran, adding that the nation is ready to transfer its experience in that field to Spain.

Fraga called his visit to Iran as an unforgettable event and added: "In our visit to several towns in Iran I and my companions found that Iran was well-developed and we believe that the future of this country is bright."

He said relations between Iran and Madrid are excellent and date back to the 15th century and the spirit of friendship and understanding is well recorded in the history and literature of the two nations.

"Commercial, political and cultural relations between Tehran and Madrid have reached a very satisfactory level and the two sides have had a record balance of trade last year.

600-Rial
Damage by
Floods in
Mazandaran

ati

ECONOMIC NOTE

Development of New Chemicals for Oil and Petrochemical Industries

By: MAHYAR EMAMI

TEHRAN - A seminar on specialty chemicals was held here at the invitation of SAMEH Co., at Iran's Industrial Management organization in north Tehran, November 12. Sameh Co. is Allied Colloid's representative in Iran.

Allied Colloids, the British chemical company, started manufacturing chemicals for water treatment, mineral processing and oil recovery, textile and paper production, pollution control and agriculture, back in 1935. About 3,000 people are currently employed by the firm worldwide.

Allied Colloids project manager Ali Asghar, Yasien al-Farra and the company's water treatment specialist gave a speech on oil exploration and water treatment to the more than 100 experts from the National Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical companies. According to the firm's project manager, Allied Colloids is the largest producer of polymers and has been active for some years in the exports of chemicals to about 100 countries world-wide.

In recent years, many large and reliable American and European chemical companies have been moving into Asia as the demand for chemicals in Asian markets is becoming greater.

Although Iran's chemical industries produce a considerable range of products, both in terms of diversity and the volume of production, our country still imports certain primary chemicals from abroad. Because of its abundant oil and gas resources, and with the development of the country's petrochemical industry, it is expected that Iran's chemical products will increasingly find their way into world markets.

An important item that Allied Colloids presently produces is a kind of polymer which can be used to prevent and control scale formation and corrosion on steam boilers, cooling towers, chemical plants and other industrial equipment. It is a well known fact that even as little as 3mm of scale will increase the fuel consumption of a given boiler by as much as 20 percent.

Petroleum refineries, power plants, industrial factories and petrochemical complexes all use a great deal of water. So the effluent contains oil, inorganic and some soluble organic materials, which if not controlled may have adverse effects on the living environment.

According to Al-Farra, in order to prevent environmental pollution, high efficiency chemicals specifically designed for sewage treatment systems have been developed by Allied Colloids.

The firm also supplies high performance chemical additives for use in drilling for a wide variety of applications including oil exploration. For enhanced oil recovery, Allied Colloids has developed polyacrylamide-based polymers which could help the oil companies solve a poor sweep efficiency problem during water flood processes. Enhanced oil recovery techniques have the potential to recover additional oil later in the field's life. The polyacrylamide has been used extensively in the U.S. for polymer applications into the oil fields. However, these polymers have some limitations with respect to reservoir temperatures and salinities.

The Allied Colloids seminar provided an opportunity for petroleum industry experts to discuss the creation of new chemicals as well as upgrades of already existing products.

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U.S. Chamber of Commerce Condemns U.S. Sanctions Against Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce which represents the strong commercial medium in that country has severely criticized application of trade sanctions as political lever adding that such sanctions have inflicted much damage on the U.S. economy, the extent of which has yet to be assessed, an announcement from

Iran Chamber of Commerce said. A statement from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has lashed out at the Helms-Burton Law which prohibits foreign investment in Cuba and a similar blockade imposed against Iran and Libya turning the law as evil and abominable.

The chamber, in its annual board of directors' meeting, de-

clared that such unilateral sanctions further isolates U.S. foreign policies and strengthens the position of regimes which are hostile to the U.S. robbing golden opportunities from U.S. companies and labor for doing business.

Elsewhere, the statement said before approving such laws the advantages and disadvantages of such measures must be carefully

examined. It called on the U.S. government to define a clear-cut policy with regard to Russia allowing the U.S. companies to profit from lucrative markets in that country.

The chamber has called for a revision of the trade policies adopted by the U.S. government and Congress.

Iran-India Launch Another Joint Venture, Chatterji Optimistic About Success

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Iran and India yesterday launched another significant joint venture, this time in the cement industry, and a senior Indian official expressed belief that "New Delhi and Tehran are on the right path of friendship and cooperation."

The joint venture was christened as the Iran & India Cement Engineering Consultants Co. (IICEC).

Iran's largest Fars and Khuzestan Cement Company (FKCC) and India's Associated Cement Companies (ACC) hold the shares of the IICEC, said ACC director Dr. A.K. Chatterji.

In an interview with IRAN NEWS, Chatterji said the ACC holds 49 percent of the shares, while the FKCC has 51 percent.

Chatterji arrived here yesterday to attend the formal inauguration ceremonies of the IICEC held yesterday.

He said that Iran and India were involved in several cement projects which were to the complete satisfaction of both sides.

India is the fourth largest cement producer in the world with a rich 80-year-long experience, Chatterji said.

The IICEC's first managing director is Dr. R.V. Hargave, who was present during the interview with Chatterji.

About the ACC, Chatterji said it operates 11 plants with a capacity of 12 million tons per annum.

Chatterji spoke high about the Islamic Republic's facilities for cement production and said, "Iran

Optical Fiber Project Complete by 70%

SANANDAJ, KURDESTAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - The executive operations of the international optical fiber project has been completed by 70 percent in Iran, said Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Mohammad Gharazi, here Saturday.

Some 2,000 km of the 22,000-kilometer-long international line which connects Shanghai, China, to Frankfurt, Germany, passes through Iran.

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Rajae Salmasi
Director of Tehran Stock Exchange

We were most distressed to hear of the sad demise of Mr. Robert Kashishyan, director of the inspection and personnel department of Tehran Stock Exchange and wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to you and the bereaved family.

IRAN NEWS Management and Staff



(From left) Chatterji, Hargave

has the fastest cement industry with an annual capacity of 20 million tons."

He said, "Iran's few projects are in the pipeline and will, after completion, boost production to 35 million tons."

Besides the IICEC, the two countries have another significant

joint project, the Irano-Hind Shipping Company which is successfully operating, with the head office in Tehran.

"You see, Iran and India have a long historical background of mutual cooperation, and it makes our job easier to join hands with the Islamic Republic," Chatterji said.

Non-Metal Mines Top 410

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - By commissioning 75 new non-metal mines during the first half of the current Iranian year, the number of such minerals was increased to 410, a statement from the Public Relations Department of Ministry of Mines and Metals said.

Aref Hamed, director general of Non-Metal Mines Department of the ministry said during the same period, a total of 3.2 million tons of 30 different non-metal minerals were extracted from these mines, showing a 13 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

He said during the first half of this year, export of such minerals have fetched \$6.5m for the nation, a growth of 74 percent compared to the same period last year.

During the first six months of this year 42 thousand tons refractory bricks and 30 thousand tons of special non-flammable mineral have been produced, the statement added.

Mr. Badir Niko Nazar, Abadan Municipality's Managing Director for Parks and Green Spaces Organization, Interviewed

"In the Name of the Almighty"

While the pure spirit of the Islamic Revolution (may his soul rest in peace), and the pure spirits of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the imposed war and we also salute the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei.

I wish to say that the green spaces in Abadan which had been set ablaze and mostly destroyed by the war's end, as the result of enemy's bombardments were in the form of ruins and in a maximum surface area of 48,664 square meters scattered around.

The area has now been revived and expanded through the great efforts of the active and hard-working laborers belonging to the Parks Organization in a way that by the construction of several parks including Arvand River's bank Park, teachers Park, Zolfaghari Park, Shahr Park, Lahoreh Park, Education Park, Karimi Park, Qods Park, Fath Park, Sailing Club Park, Shaghiyeh Park, Abadan Hotel

sidepark, Hotel Hotel sidepark at the city's entrance Square, Taleghani Square, Emam Square Park (Seyd Abbas) and two big boulevards (Taleghani and the city entrance boulevards), two sports lawn fields and Zolfaghari 22-meter-wide boulevard. Also by reviving the Dabestan Park, Montazeri Park, children's Park, Abolhasan Park, and the construction of 20 small local parks, and sports fields for the city's youth, the city has now obtained a new face, and the green spaces in Abadan, including the oil company's area coverage has expanded to over 800,000 square meters (eighty hectares) from the 48,664 square meters.

Making the water fronts operational in parks and squares is included in the activities of the Parks Organization. In the last three months of 1994 and the first three months of 1995, the waterfronts in Shahid Montazeri Park, Arvand River's bank Park, flower Park, laborer Park of Enghelab Square, the park across from civic offices and Emam Square Park (Seyd Abbas), were put into operation. The operations for the expansion of the

green area already under way are the continuation and expansion of the Great Airport Park, the newly constructed forest park at the beginning of 40-meter-wide Zolfaghari Boulevard, Melat Boulevard, 8 to 12 Station Boulevard, the continuing of Teachers' Park from across Naft theater toward Tank farm, Bahmanshir River's bank boulevard, Pole Sevom Boulevard, Shahr sports field, and the Ghazem Shazand Park. I'd like to further explain that simultaneous to the construction of every parks and boulevards, the drainage operations for the disposing of waste water and soil washing and laying of irrigation water pipes are also performed by the Parks Organization that up to now about 47,397 drainage operations and 67,809 meters of pipe laying operations have been performed using polyethylene and drainage pipes. For pumping water out of the river, six, six-inch, pipes have been installed on the banks of Bahmanshir and Arvand Kenu rivers. The preservation cost for the existing green areas is 250,000,000 Rials per month.



Badir Niko Nazar
Abadan Parks and
Green Spaces
organization's

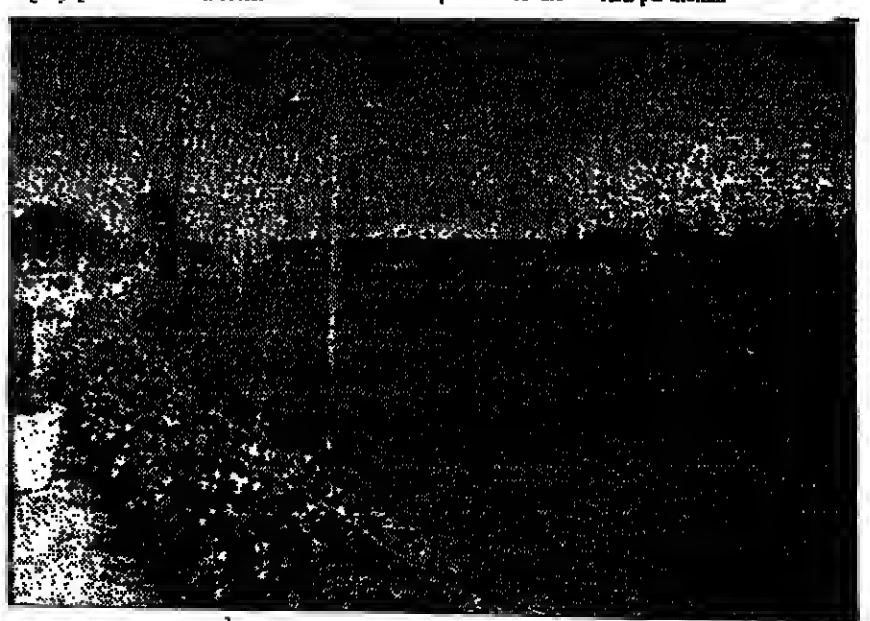
At the end, I'd like to express my gratitude to the respected city dwellers of Abadan who are cooperating with this organization for the preservation of the green spaces.

I would also like to thank all authorities and people in charge particularly the respected mayor of Abadan who are assisting this organization. God willing, by the beginning of the spring of 1997, the city of Abadan's green spaces, excluding the Oil Company's areas, will surpass one hundred hectares.

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A View of Abadan's Teachers Park.

کتابخانه

Condemns
Iran

IRAN

WORLD NEWS

History's Hold on Pakistan

By Stanley Wolpert

Benazir Bhutto Embraced Her Father's Legacy

Los Angeles - Four years before his fall from power in 1977, President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan warned his nation, "What is built on hypocrisy and deceit must finally crumble." But he never took that message to heart. Nor her opponents say, did his daughter, Benazir. Just like her father before her, Benazir Bhutto cleverly used populist oratory, inspirational promises and idealistic national platforms to rise to power. If words had the fruitifying powers of water, they would have brought bountiful harvests to impoverished Pakistan. Instead, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's quest for power led to charges of corruption and removal from office. He was executed in 1979.

For the last eight years, her critics contend, Ms. Bhutto seemed determined to carry on her father's troubled legacy. When

she was ousted as prime minister last week by President Farooq Leghari on accusations of corruption even some former allies despaired of this family drama.

The parallels are clear. Ms. Bhutto inherited her father's charisma, passion for politics and insatiable ambition, but also his cruel streak and willingness to undermine democratic institutions.

As he campaigned for power, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto claimed to be a reformer. Yet despite his Western education, he never rose above his feudal roots, always practicing siasat, or vengeance. Indeed, a Cabinet minister who dared to complain that Bhutto had been late to a reception was beaten unconscious by his men. Many of Bhutto's promises for reform were broken. A self-proclaimed socialist, he enacted land reforms that protected landowners.

Benazir Bhutto started her political career with Western credentials, degrees from Radcliffe and Oxford, and a great deal of good

will. Returning home in 1986 after a self-imposed exile, she endured imprisonment before the popular movement she led helped end the military dictatorship. In 1988, she won the country's first general election in more than a decade.

It was a brief interlude of hope and pride, especially throughout Sindh Province, where cries of "Jije Bhutto!" (Bhutto Lives!) greeted the prime minister. But that euphoria quickly ended, even among those who worked closely with her in the Pakistan People's Party. Instead of focusing on efforts to help develop the economy and trying to provide education and work for tens of millions of poor Pakistanis, Prime Minister Bhutto worried about how best to immortalize her father, planning costly monuments and hoping to persuade the World Court to exonerate him.

Her term ended after only 20 months, when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed her for what he said was incompetence

and corruption. After winning back power in the 1993 election, she made sure to hold a firm grip on it.

She staged a bloody crackdown on armed rivers who conducted a campaign against her in Karachi. She directed a campaign of harassment against judges and reporters. Meanwhile, her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been widely accused of enriching himself from government contracts.

Her hold on power has split her family. She is estranged from her mother, and in September her brother, Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who had been involved in a long feud with his sister, was gunned down outside his home in Karachi.

The fall of the Bhutto is a family tragedy and a national one for Pakistan. The glorious Legacy Zulfikar Ali Bhutto hoped to leave his children, tightly held for almost half a decade by his daughter, lies in ashes. Few Pakistanis mourn the dismissal of Benazir Bhutto any more than they now mourn the fate of her father.

WEATHER

Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	13°C		
Minimum	+04°C		
Partly cloudy with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Minab	31°C		
Low: Khalkhal	-08°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on Nov. 17, 1996			
Paris	07°C	Kuwait	27°C
Riyadh	27°C	Vienna	13°C
London	09°C	Rome	17°C
Abu Dhabi	27°C	Madrid	09°C

"The Israelis simply do not realize that an agreement must be reached quickly."

He said the two sides would meet again yesterday in Jericho to discuss "the issues of hot pursuit and armaments for the Palestinian police."

The Palestinians will also reiterate their demand that the talks address other commitments by Israel under the 1995 Oslo Accords left unimplemented, such as the opening of a Palestinian airport and the freeing of prisoners.

Five HAMAS Members Arrested After West Bank Mystery Explosion

KABATIYA, WEST BANK - Palestinian police yesterday arrested five members of the Islamic militant group HAMAS in connection with a mysterious explosion which left one Palestinian dead.

The explosion on Saturday in this northern West Bank village killed Mohammad Assaf Kmeil in what the Israeli army called a "work accident" as he was allegedly preparing a bomb for an anti-Israeli attack.

Israelis said Kmeil, 34, was a known member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS).

A Palestinian intelligence official investigating the explosion told AFP that Palestinian police arrested five HAMAS members yesterday in Kabatiya, a village under joint Israeli-Palestinian control near the self-rule enclave of Jenin.

Three HAMAS Members Released by Palestinian Authority

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK - The Palestinian Authority released from prison yesterday three members of the Islamic militant group HAMAS, Palestinian security sources said.

Sea foreign ministers following the 1991 Soviet dissolution and reflects the relative proximity of the relevant countries.

"The meeting did not reach definitive results on the Caspian Sea legal regime and issued a joint statement stressing the need to formulate and sign a convention on the Caspian legal regime based on the agreement of all littoral states," he added.

The five states reached agreement on a deputy foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Almaty in December to work on the executive measures, he remarked.

He said the next meeting of the Caspian Sea foreign ministers will be held in Moscow in the first quarter of 1997.

The Tehran meeting culminated in the setup of a joint stock company by Iran, Russia, and Turkmenistan to work in relation

with Caspian oil and gas, he pointed out.

So long as the new Caspian Sea legal regime is not specified and approved by the five littoral states, the 1921 and 1940 pacts signed by Iran and the former Soviet Union will be in force.

Iran, Russia, and Turkmenistan will hold a meeting of deputy foreign ministers and representatives of the three countries' oil and gas ministries in the first half of December.

Maleki will pay an official visit to Spain November 25-26 and to Malta November 28-29 for the Mediterranean Crans-Montana meeting.

Murtaza's party men last week staged a protest rally here demanding the public execution of Zardari in connection with the killing.

Zardari was taken into custody on unspecified charges soon after the November 5 dismissal of Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto was sacked by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari on accusations of lawlessness, corruption and misuse by her administration.

The former premier has denied the charges and challenged the dismissal of her three year old government in the Supreme Court.

At a news conference here yesterday she reiterated that she would not accept the results of any investigation into Murtaza's case unless the probe was carried by British detectives she had invited to take part during her rule, saying she had "neither any trust nor faith" in local officials.

Bhutto said the team of British investigators returned home after her government's removal.

Calling the killing a "conspiracy" to topple her government, Bhutto, again alleged that Leghari was directly or indirectly involved in the Murtaza case.

Caretaker Prime Minister Malik Meraj Khalid has denied Bhutto's charges against Leghari calling them "baseless."

Leghari has taken "personal responsibility" for ensuring that commitments to the IMF are implemented by an elected government. Sharif's party has said it would follow its own economic policies.

aroused widespread fears for Lebanon's liberties, is designed to regulate the media which sprang up during the 1975-90 civil war for the first time.

However, it has been denounced as a carve-up since the handful of new broadcasting licenses have gone to outlets owned by government and establishment figures, including Hariri, while all opposition radios and televisions have been refused licenses and are to be closed.

Qatari FM to Visit Gaza

DOHA (AFP) - Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad ibn Jasssem al-Thani is to make his country's first official visit to the Gaza Strip today for talks with Palestinian officials, Qatari officials said.

Hamad is to travel to the Gaza Strip from the Egyptian border town of Al-Arish, thus avoiding having to pass through Israel to reach the Palestinian autonomous area, the officials added.

The visit has "political significance" since it comes less than a week after the Qatari foreign minister's announcement, on the sidelines of the economic conference in Cairo, of a freeze in normalizing ties with Israel, said a Qatari official who requested anonymity.

The foreign minister also met his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, Tuesday at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference in Cairo to inform him that there would be no change in their countries' ties without peace process progress.

Doha said it only would open its planned trade representative office in Israel when there was progress in the Israeli-Arab peace process.

"We are following what was launched in Madrid (the 1991 peace conference) and when the peace process was frozen we froze the normalization," the Qatari foreign minister said.

Oman and Qatar both agreed to exchange commercial representative offices with Israel earlier this year as the first step towards the normalization of ties with the Zionist state, but only Oman has opened its bureau in Tel Aviv.

Israel sent a trade representative to Doha in May who is currently working out of a hotel, however Levy told AFP Qatar had now authorized the official to move into an office, Nov. 17.

Minerals Worth \$7m Exported

SHIRAZ, FARS PROVINCE (IRNA) - More than seven million dollars worth of minerals were exported from this southern province during the first half of the current Iranian year (started March 20), said a local official.

The minerals were exported to India, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and the Persian Gulf states, added director general for provincial Mines and Metals Department, Reza Nasari, yesterday.

There are 123 active mines in the Fars Province, he added.



UNITED NATIONS: (FILES) Picture dated Oct. 23, 1995 of Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh speaking before a special session of the United Nations General Assembly. Le Duc Anh, Vietnam's 76-year-old head of state and second-ranking official in the ruling Communist Party, has been admitted to hospital in serious conditions, said sources in Hanoi Nov. 16. (AFP Photo)

Minerals Worth \$6.5m Exported

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The total value of minerals exported in the first half of the current calendar year amounted to \$6.5 million, showing a 74 percent rise compared to similar period last year, the Mines and Metals Ministry reported yesterday.

According to the report 3,200,000 tons of varying kinds of non-metallic minerals were extracted from mines all over the country between March 20 and September 21, which showed over a 13 percent growth, compared to the last year's figure.

Based on the report 72,000 tons of fire clay were produced in the first half of the year, registering a 22 percent increase.

of Arah land," the paper said.

Overnight Talks on Hebron Fail to Make Progress

GAZA CITY - Israeli and Palestinian negotiators failed overnight to push forward stalled talks over the long-delayed Israeli withdrawal in the West Bank town of Hebron, officials here said yesterday.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he met Saturday night in Jericho with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal adviser, Yitzhak Molkho, but "there was no progress in the talks."

Speaking to Palestine Radio, Erekat accused Israel of holding up the talks with its demand for "hot pursuit" in Hebron, adding:

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,389	1,382	2,384	2,372
Austria	schilling	166	165	284	283
Belgium	(100)francs	5,660	5,628	9,709	9,661
Canada	dollar	1,314	1,307	2,254	2,243
Denmark	kroner	304	302	521	519
France	franc	345	343	592	589
Germany	mark	1,165	1,159	1,999	1,989
Italy	(100)liras	116	115	199	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,578	1,569	2,707	2,694
Netherlands	guilder	1,040	1,034	1,784	1,776
Sweden	kroner	266	264	456	454
Switzerland	franc	1,377	1,369	2,362	2,350
U.K.	pound	2,926	2,909	5,019	4,994
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	820	818



BANGKOK, THAILAND: Thai soldiers, holding their ID cards aloft, march in formation Nov. 17 to a polling station in central Bangkok to cast their votes in the general elections. The ballot, the second in just 16 months, will choose 393 members of the Lower House of Parliament. The New Aspiration Party and the Democrat Party were leading in pre-election polls but neither is likely to win a majority of seats and so a coalition government is expected to emerge from the voting.

(AFP Photo)

Thai General Election Front-Runners Neck-and-Neck as Polls Close

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AFP) - Voting for what has been labeled the dirtiest Thai election in decades came to a close yesterday, as early exit polls showed the two front-running parties in a neck-and-neck race for victory.

Polling was halted at 3:00 p.m. (08:00 GMT) after an estimated 60 percent of the 38-million strong Thai electorate cast their ballots in elections marred by reports of widespread vote-buying and voter

intimidation.

Official results were still a long way off but an exit poll by Channel Nine television showed the Democrats of former Premier Chuan Leekpai and the New Aspiration Party of Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh in a dead heat.

The poll of voters across Thailand showed both parties winning 124 seats each in the 393-seat parliament, with the Chart Pattana party of another former Premier, Chaiichai Choonhavan, running a

distant third with 52 seats.

Meanwhile, it was reported by Reuters that a shooting and reports of bribery and intimidation marred Thailand's elections yesterday after one of the dirtiest and most violent campaigns in memory.

A gunman shot and seriously injured a policeman and an election official in the western Bangkok suburb of Bang Khae, but was arrested shortly afterwards, police said.

Lebanese Official Denies Envoys Carrying Arad Evidence to Germany

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AFP) - A Lebanese official yesterday denied a report that the government was sending envoys to Germany with evidence that missing Israeli pilot Ron Arad is still alive.

"Lebanon has no intention of sending emissaries" to meet German secret services coordinator Bernd Schmidbauer, who is mediating between Israel and the Shia Muslim Hizbollah, said the official who asked for anonymity.

Arad disappeared after his

plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986. He is the only one of six missing Israeli servicemen still thought by Israel to be alive and in detention.

The British daily The Independent yesterday said the Lebanese envoys would bring fingerprint proof to German authorities yesterday that Arad was still alive.

The trip by the two Lebanese emissaries was aimed at preparing for an exchange of prisoners be-

tween Israel and Arad's captors, The Independent said.

The newspaper also said Israel was ready to free two leading members of Lebanese Shia Muslim movements, Abdel Karim Obeid and Mustapha Dirani, and 33 other people being held in Israeli prisons.

Israel kidnapped Dirani from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley in 1984 to get information on Arad while Obeid, a prominent Hizbollah clergyman, was abducted by Israeli troops in 1989.

Imran Khan Has "a Great Chance" of Becoming Prime Minister

LONDON, BRITAIN (AFP) - Pakistan's cricketing legend Imran Khan said yesterday he had a "great chance" of becoming the country's next prime minister after announcing last week he would contest his country's general election.

Khan said in an interview on BBC television his movement for Justice Party would seek to rid Pakistan of corruption.

Elections are due to take place on February 3 following the dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

President Farooq Leghari sacked Bhutto on November 5 and dissolved the National Assembly, accusing her government of massive corruption, misrule, economic mismanagement and lawlessness leading to thousands of extra-judicial killings in Karachi and other parts of the country.



KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Sacked Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto tries to touch a goat brought to her by supporters to welcome her at the Karachi Airport Nov. 16. Bhutto told reporters at the airport that "it is not my fight alone but the fight of the people of Pakistan."

(AFP Photo)

Romanians Vote for New President

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA (AFP) - Romanians yesterday voted in the second round of presidential elections in which challenger Emil Constantinescu was tipped to end the seven-year rule of Ion Iliescu.

Iliescu, 66, who has governed Romania since the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December 1989, obtained 32 percent of the

vote in the first round of the elections against 28 percent for Constantinescu, a 57-year-old geologist.

But the challenger won the backing of other candidates, including former Prime Minister Petre Roman, who took 21 percent, and Gyorgy Frunda, representing the country's Hungarian minority, with six percent.

An opinion poll published since the first round on November 3 predicted a win for Constantinescu by 52.8 percent to 47.2 for Iliescu.

If Constantinescu wins he can expect full backing from a government coalition comprising his democratic convention and Romania's Social Democratic Union, which won general elections on November 3.

Czech Ruling Party Well Placed Ahead of Second Round Senate Vote

PRAGUE (AFP) - Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) appeared poised yesterday to dominate a new 81-seat Upper House after a successful performance in the first round, which ended Saturday.

However the party will have to contend with an opposition seeking to repeat its performance in general elections in June, when the ODS lost its parliamentary majority, and coalition partners who are reluctant to commit their support.

The second round will be held Friday and Saturday. Results show the ODS well-placed for the runoff in most of the 81 districts, and outright winners in three.

The results showed that the ODS had scored a significant victory over opposition Leader Milos Zeman's Social Democratic Party (CSSD).

The ODS won 36 percent of the vote, compared to 20 percent for the CSSD. In June's legislative elections, Klaus' Party was just three points ahead of the CSSD with 29 percent to Zeman's 26 percent.

The CSSD also failed to win any seats outright in the first round.

However two out of three electors did not bother to vote in the polls held Friday and Saturday, amid widespread doubt about the need for a second chamber of Parliament.

The ODS will face off Friday and Saturday against the CSSD in 49 seats, but in most of the rest its opponents will be from its parliamentary ally, the Christian Democrat Union of Vice Premier Josef Lux (KDU-CSL), which won one seat outright in Brno.



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC: Czech President Vaclav Havel watches news on the first round of parliamentary elections in his Prague house Nov. 16. Some 8 million voters were called to the ballots to fill the 81 seats of the newly created Upper House of Parliament but participation was estimated at around 20 to 30 percent after the first day of voting yesterday.

(AFP Photo)

Taliban Call on U.N. to Recognize Them as Legitimate Afghan Rulers

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - The Taliban religious movement yesterday called on the United Nations to recognize them as the legitimate ruler of Afghanistan and to transfer the U.N. seat from the ousted regime, a spokesman here said.

"A real Islamic government has been established in Afghanistan which enjoys all the conditions a government must," acting

Taliban Minister of Information and Culture Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi told reporters.

He called on the U.N. to give Afghanistan's seat to a Taliban representative and to discontinue recognition of the government of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"It's a moral offense if they permit the escaped militia to have the Afghanistan seat at the U.N.," he charged.

The Taliban, who captured Kabul on September 27 and now control some 75 percent of Afghanistan, have not yet received official recognition from either the U.N. or any other country.

The U.N. seat is still being held by a representative of Rabbani, the former Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai.

17 Dead, 41 Injured in Turkish Hotel Fire

ISTANBUL, TURKEY (AFP) - Seventeen people were killed and 41 injured when a fire swept through a hotel in the old town in Istanbul at dawn yesterday, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The majority of victims were Ukrainian tourists, the agency said. The fire in the seven-storey, 80-room Tozbe Hotel was probably sparked by a gas leak. Most of the victims died from poisoning after inhaling fumes, the agency said.

The number of victims could rise, hospital sources said.

The hotel, like some 200 others in the Laleli neighborhood, is mainly used by tourists from the Balkans.

Duce's Granddaughter May Join Neo-Fascists

ROME, ITALY (Reuters) - the granddaughter of Italy's Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini is thinking of joining a Neo-Fascist Party formed by some of the duce's World War II followers. La Stampa newspaper said yesterday.

Alessandra Mussolini, who already sits in the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House), quit the hard right National Alliance Movement last week over policy differences.

The fiery, blonde politician, 33, told La Stampa that she

was giving serious thought to an offer from the Neo-Fascist Social Movement (MS-Fiamma) to join its ranks and hold a high office in the party.

"I shall think about it," said Mussolini, who is also a niece of screen star Sophia Loren. "I want to wake up the right."

Mussolini, who ran unsuccessfully three years ago for mayor of Naples, addressed MS-Fiamma's conference in central Italy on Saturday.

کتابخانه

IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS



GISENYI, RWANDA: Tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees arrive Nov. 16 in Gisenyi after fleeing the Zairean Mugunga and Sake refugee camps. The refugees trudged out of the border town of Gisenyi and moved further inland Nov. 16 after crossing over from Zaire. The main Umubano aid camp at Gisenyi was reported to be overflowing with up to 80,000 refugees having crossed the border there during the night. There they would be transported to their villages, given food and seeds and helped to start a new life.

(AFP Photo)

Refugee Flow Continues, U.N. Pushes for Zaire Force

GISENYI, RWANDA (Reuters) - A human tide of returning Hutu refugees flooded into Rwanda from Zaire yesterday for the third straight day, stretching harassed aid organizations to breaking point.

With no end to the flow in sight, the United Nations continued preparations to send a multinational intervention force to aid hundreds of thousands of refugees still at large in war-torn eastern Zaire.

But, never keen on the idea, the International Community hinted it could radically alter the mission's mandate. Rwanda said the force was no longer needed.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said the human exodus might lead the United States and its allies to modify the plan for a Canadian-led U.N. force.

"There have been some very interesting and positive developments in Zaire in the last two days," Perry told a news conference. "It is possible that our plan, the allied

plan... will be modified."

President Bill Clinton has approved sending U.S. forces after receiving assurances the risk would be limited.

South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday that countries sending troops to eastern Zaire would meet in Germany on Wednesday to review the mission and discuss whether its mandate and size should be changed.

But Mbeki said at the World Food Summit in Rome: "We do not need the sort of numbers (of troops) that have been spoken about."

Three Hercules C-130 military transport planes carrying 34 Canadians arrived in the Rwandan capital Kigali to set up a headquarters and logistical support unit for the planned force.

U.N. special envoy Raymond Chretien said the Canadian-led force, approved by the Security Council last week, was needed to help thousands of refugees still in eastern Zaire.

Britain to Sell Qatar \$820 Million of Defense Equipment

DOHA, QATAR (AFP) - Britain signed a deal here yesterday to sell \$820 million of armored vehicles, missiles, ships and training aircraft to the Persian Gulf Arab state of Qatar, British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo announced.

The package worth about 500 million pounds contains GKN Pi-

ranha armored personnel carriers, Short Starburst missiles, Vosper Thornycroft 46-meter vessels and British Aerospace Hawk aircraft.

"Her majesty's government is committed to a long-term partnership with Qatar and the provision of British defense equipment will give yet further expression to our relationship," Portillo said.

FAO SUMMIT ENDS:

Now the Real Work Begins, Prodi

ROME, ITALY (AFP) - The U.N. World Food Summit ended yesterday with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi saying "it is only now that the real work begins."

Pope John Paul II had opened the summit Wednesday with a call for a change in thinking to get people to work together against hunger.

Eighty-six heads of state and government attended from among the 187 nations present.

The summit, whose main goal was to reduce malnutrition in the world by half by the year 2015, was dominated by the breaking news of hundreds of thousands of

refugees risking starvation in eastern Zaire.

Zairean Vice Prime Minister Mutombo Bakafwa Nsenda had called Thursday at the summit's plenary session that he wanted international aid to be distributed in the refugees' home countries, not in Zaire.

Developments since then may make this possible since refugees are now streaming out of Zaire into Rwanda and Burundi.

Cuban President Fidel Castro delivered the most fiery speech of the summit on Saturday when he blasted the gathering as "shameful" for failing to do more to fight hunger.



Air Force Bombs Tiger Targets, Sri Lanka on Red Alert

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Sri Lanka's air force bombed suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla targets in the east of the country as ground troops remained on maximum alert for retaliatory rebel attacks, officials said yesterday.

Air force bombers devastated a separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) building near the small town of Chenkaladi Saturday, officials said, adding that rebel casualties were not immediately known.

"It is believed that the target was a clandestine medical facility of the Tigers," a local official said.

The air strikes came as government troops relocated one of their elite fighting units in the adjoining district of Ampara in a bid to seek

and destroy suspected Tiger positions in the area, officials said.

Villagers in eastern regions were under increased pressure by the LTTE, which has been accused of killing scores of civilians of the majority Sinhalese community and the minority Muslims living in the area.

The LTTE claims the island's northeast as a traditional homeland, where they want to establish an independent state called Eelam. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since 1972.

Troops in the embattled northern and eastern regions have been placed on top alert for possible bomb attacks by the Tigers to mark the 42nd birthday of rebel supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran on November 26, officials said.

24 Killed in India's Troubled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - At least 21 Muslim separatist guerrillas and three other people died in separate clashes overnight in Indian-administered Kashmir, a Defense Ministry spokesman said here yesterday.

Indian soldiers also arrested 10 suspected Muslim rebels in stepped-up search operations in the Himalayan region during the past 24 hours, he said.

Indian troops killed nine guer-

rillas overnight in the frontier district of Kupwara and shot dead two others in a gunbattle in the district of Badgam, he said, adding a civilian held hostage by the guerrillas also died in the clash.

Ten other rebel fighters were killed by soldiers elsewhere in Kashmir, the spokesman said in state summer capital Srinagar and added a police officer and another civilian died in overnight separatist violence.

Yeltsin to Leave Hospital

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin was given permission to leave the Kremlin Central Hospital yesterday to take a walk at his country home and will quit the clinic permanently on "Thursday or Friday," the president's doctors said.

"The president's recovery is going well, the president is active and today he is going to have a walk at his dacha in Barvikha to recover a family atmosphere," his surgeon

Renat Achkurian said yesterday, according to Interfax news agency.

Sergei Mironov, the Kremlin's chief doctor, was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying that Yeltsin would be transferred from the hospital to a convalescence home, also in Barvikha, in southwest Moscow, on Thursday or Friday.

Mironov also said that the remaining stitches would be removed from Yeltsin's chest on Wednesday.



Moldovans Go to Polls to Elect President

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA (AFP) - Moldovans went to the polls yesterday to elect a new president for this former Soviet republic now plagued by economic crisis in a vote boycotted by the breakaway Transnistria region.

Polling stations opened at 8 a.m. (06:00 GMT) and will close at 8 p.m. (18:00 GMT). First results are due to be available today.

Nine candidates are running in the election. Outgoing President Mircea Snegur, 56, a former Communist apparatchik turned pro-Western liberal, is seeking a second term.

Snegur was the only candidate in the country's first presidential election in 1991. Since then, his country has undergone economic reform and democratization under his guidance.

According to opinion polls, his nearest rivals are Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, 53, who is backed by the Agrarian left and is seen as close to Moscow, and parliamentary speaker Petru Lucinschi, 56, who presents himself as a unifying force and advocates social democracy.

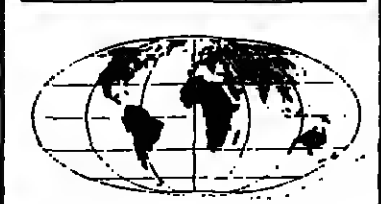
Police Arrest 4,000 Protesters at Miss World

BANGALORE, INDIA (AFP) - Batoo-wielding police arrested some 4,000 leftists here yesterday after they tried to lay siege to a hotel housing 89 contestants of the Miss World Pageant.

Witnesses said the predominantly female crowd, led by senior Communist Party of India-Marxist Leader Suhasini Ali, was beaten back by truncheon-wielding policemen, and later packed off to police stations.

Ali said before her arrest that she had scored a victory over the state administration.

The World at a Glance



CAIRO, EGYPT - Egyptian authorities yesterday forced a Zairean plane on route between Kinshasa and Tel Aviv to land at Coiro Airport for flying through Egyptian airspace without authorization, airport sources said.

SKOPJE, MACEDONIA - Macedonians headed to the polls yesterday for the first municipal elections since the republic declared independence from the former Yugoslav Federation in 1991.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - A mysterious new Australian virus, which is thought to be carried by bats, will be targeted by a massive research effort after claiming its first victim last week, authorities said yesterday.

DUBAI, U.A.E. - Freak rain storms and gale force winds killed at least three people and injured four others over the weekend in Saudi Arabia, Saudi newspapers said yesterday.

HANOI, VIETNAM - Vietnam's President Anh was being treated in a Hanoi hospital yesterday for blood pressure problems, but there were mixed reports about the severity of his condition.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - A Russian space probe launched on a mission to Mars ran into problems after liftoff and officials said yesterday it would probably re-enter the Earth's atmosphere and burn up.

OSLO, NORWAY - A ferry carrying 950 passengers broke off a journey to Denmark and turned back to the Norwegian capital yesterday after a bomb threat was made against the ship, police said.

(DISPATCHES)

IRAN'S ORIGINAL HOUSE OF AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE

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Japanese Restaurant
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Vanak Sq., Tehran

Tel: 8773735 & 8776301

LUNCH 12:00-15:00 DINNER 18:30-23:00

David Dicks Sails into Record Books

PERTH, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - Australian teenager David Dicks has sailed into the record books by becoming the youngest mariner to circumnavigate the World alone and non-stop.

Cheered on by tens of thousands of onlookers, Dicks, 18, of Perth, western Australia, glided his 10-meter sloop Seafight across the finishing line in Fremantle Harbor Sunday, 264 days after starting his marathon 35,000 kilometer voyage in February. Dicks beat the record of 20-year-old American B.J. Cordwell, who completed his voyage in Hawaii three months ago.

Sports Highlights

South Africa Crush Indian Board President's XI

BARODA, INDIA (Reuters) - South Africa needed less than an hour on Sunday to wrap up their three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI with a convincing 10-wicket win.

Starting the last day needing just 68 runs for victory, South African openers Andrew Hudson (26 not out) and Gary Kirsten (37 not out) took the tourists to success.

It was a good curtain-raiser for the tourists who play India in the first test on Wednesday.

The local side were without Venkatapathy Raju, the left-arm spinner who grabbed six wickets for 64 runs in the tourists' first innings, for most of the morning. He had sustained a hairline fracture on his bowling arm while trying to stop a drive from Kirsten.

Women Crack Acapulco's Famed Cliff-Diving Competition

ACAPULCO, MEXICO (AP) - On dares, for kicks and for prizes, men have been diving from a cliff into a sea-filled chasm here for decades. Until now, women simply watched one of Mexico's great rituals of "Nachismo."

But in the demise of another gender barrier, women went for prize money for the first time Saturday in the world-renowned Acapulco Cliff-Diving Championships.

It was part equal-opportunity, part marketing inspiration. Organizers hoped the presence of female divers would rejuvenate the event after a three-year hiatus.

The money wasn't enormous: \$ 6,000 apiece for the winners of separate men's and women's divisions. But this was mainly about bragging rights. Most of the competitors hoped to boost their Marquee value as divers on the amusement-park circuit.

On Saturday, six American and Canadian women jumped from the cliffs of this Pacific resort city, 180 miles (290 kilometers) southwest of Mexico City, into a churning gorge known as "La Quebrada," or "The Break." The 27 men taking part were to compete Sunday.

Heidi Pascoe took first place on two cleanly executed dives from 68 feet (21 meters), a forward-double somersault with a half-twist and a flying one-and-a-half somersault.

"I went up the cliff to do my best, and if the best takes me to the top so be it," said Pascoe, 24, of the United States. "I bowed my head and prayed. I'm pretty proud of myself."

The women were following a pioneer named Barbara Winter. In 1977, she performed well in practice rounds at Acapulco but was refused permission to compete against men in the finals.

The men in the Acapulco Cliff Divers' Union, who set the rules for the event, put aside their doubts this year on the advice of producer-promoter Sam Hernandez.



SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Pakistan captain Wassim Akram celebrates the fall of New Zealand's 9th wicket during the final match of the Singer Champions Trophy in Sharjah, November 15. Pakistan won by 41 runs.

(AFP Photo)

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

Hingis Confident She Will Spoil Graf-Seles Showdown

NEW YORK (AFP) - Steffi Graf and Monica Seles have the year's top records entering the season-ending WTA Championships, but a 16-year-old Swiss sensation might just swipe the spotlight from both of them.

Martina Hingis, who beat Monica Seles a week ago in their first-ever meeting, likes her chances in the WTA's \$2 million showdown that begins here Monday. "I have a good chance. I can beat any player," Hingis said. "I have to keep playing like I have the past several weeks, but there are still 15 other players there."

VOL. III. No. 607 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Monday November 18, 1996, Aban 28, 1375, Rajab 6, 1417

IRIB Beat Rohington XI

Baseball Federation of Islamic Republic of Iran

The newly formed IRIB Cricket Club won their second match against Rohington XI by 5 wickets. IRIB skipper Afsar put Rohington XI in to bat after winning the toss. They scored 142 runs for nine wickets in their allotted 30 overs. Shahpour scored 46, A. Esmaili 17, G. Dehghanpour 14 and Qadir 13 runs. Ebrar took 2 for 22, Mosaddeq took 2 for 21. Nasser Zaidi 1 for 29, Kazeni 1 for 15, and Faqar 1 for 27.

IRIB used eight Medium Pace bowlers to attack Rohington XI batsmen. Their ground fielding was excellent and a couple of good catches were taken. Needing 143 runs for victory IRIB scored the required runs in 26 overs. Abid coming to play at No. 3 remained N.O. on 53 runs. Their openers Mossadeq and Nasser scored 18 and 31 runs each. Shahpour took 2 for 39. Skipper Rohington Ovichagan took 1 for 30, M. R. Dehghanpour 1 for 15 and Qadir 1 for 23.

Mehdi Azam Cricket Tournament

Due to typing error Cash Awards presented by Mr. Zainuddin Alamed Khan was wrongly printed. Actual Cash Awards were 750,000 rials to the winning team and 350,000 rials to the losers. Error is duly regretted.

Wadkins and "Walrus" Feast on Shark

THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA (AFP) - Americans Craig Stadler and Lanny Wadkins fired a tournament record best-ball score of 15-under par 57 here Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead at the Shark Shootout.

The three-day, 10-duo event worth \$1.1 million and sponsored by Australia's Greg Norman concludes Sunday with a scramble format.



Greg Norman

Stadler and Wadkins, who won this title in 1990 with Tom Purtzer, had an eagle on the 10th hole, sparking their move to 18-under 126 for the event. They had seven birdies on the front nine, 25-footers on the fourth and sixth holes and an 18-footer on the third hole.

"It was a lot of fun," Wadkins said. "We both were in play all of the time. We holed some shots but at the same time we felt like we could make it."



MANCHESTER, ENGLAND: Ian Wright of Arsenal (L) moves past Ronny Johnsen of Manchester United in their Premiership match at Old Trafford Nov. 16. Manchester won the match 1-0.

(AFP Photo)

United Silence Gunners

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United ended one of the worst spells in their history with a 1-0 victory on Saturday as Arsenal manager seven weeks ago.

After four defeats in five matches, United got back to winning ways courtesy of an own goal by defender Nigel Winterburn as the Old Trafford crowd, criticized recently for being too quiet, roared the champions to victory.

"For me the telling factor was the support," said United boss Alex Ferguson. "Sometimes you forget how young this side is, they would rather have encouragement than criticism and that was shown today."

"The problem is we have a lot of people come here as visitors, who sit and admire, and enjoy the day out. It is a bit of weekend holiday for them."

"That's all very well, but it's no use to me or the players. When you have support like you had today, with 55,000 here cheering you on, it makes all the difference."

The result gives United a confidence boost ahead of their Champions' League game against Juventus on Wednesday and Ferguson added: "The longer the

game went on, we got more like our old selves."

The result didn't matter as much as the performance, it showed we are back and there is nothing wrong."

Newcastle stayed top of the table despite being held to a 1-1 draw by West Ham but they will be without both first-choice strikers for Tuesday's UEFA Cup game at Metz after Les Ferdinand joined Alan Shearer on the injury list.

Ferdinand is likely to be out for up to six weeks after suffering a depressed cheekbone in an aerial challenge.

Newcastle salvaged a point eight minutes from time when veteran striker Peter Beardsley's 200th league goal cancelled out Keith Rowland's first half opener.

Manager Kevin Keegan hailed Beardsley's contribution, revealing: "Peter came in at half-time and said: 'I'm having a nightmare'."

"But I told him: 'I'll take a nightmare from you because of your enthusiasm', and he goes out in the second half and gets us a goal."

Everton new boy Nick Barmby scored one goal and set up three while midfielder Gary Speed grabbed a hat-trick as the Merseysiders crushed Southamp-

ton 7-1.

Barmby, playing in only his second appearance for Everton since his \$9 million move from Middlesbrough, said: "It's the best team performance I have ever played in or had the pleasure of witnessing."

Roy Evans welcomed Liverpool's 2-0 win over Leeds that saw them move into second but was still not totally happy with his side's performance.

The Reds wasted numerous chances as they were made to wait until seconds before the final whistle to make the game safe with Steve McManaman adding to Neil Ruddock's 13th minute opener.

"We didn't keep the ball as well as we usually do," admitted Evans. "We kept giving it back and that meant the pressure was always on us."

Gerry Francis saw his spurs team score their fifth win in six games with a 2-0 home victory over Sunderland who had Paul Stewart sent off against his former club for an ugly challenge on Colin Calderwood.

Goals from Andy Sinton and Teddy Sheringham sealed the points but Francis was disappointed his side did not capitalize on their numerical advantage.

Handwritten text in Persian script: "کتابخانه" (Library)

IRAN
BUSINESS NEWS

OPEC to Consider Increasing Production Ceiling

DUBAI (AFP) - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will consider raising its production ceiling when it meets November 27 in Vienna, the organization's president said Saturday.

"OPEC will consider at its ministerial meeting the possibility of increasing its production ceiling. This matter depends on the member countries," OPEC president and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Rakkad bin Salem bin Rakkad was quoted by the official Emirati news agency WAM as saying.

"The organization is making big sacrifices to maintain market stability. Its share of the market is not more than 40 percent while it has 70 percent of the world's crude reserves," he said.

"It is normal for OPEC countries to take action to increase their market share," he added.

He said that the November 27 meeting agenda would also include setting up a mechanism to oversee quotas.

"OPEC's ministerial supervision committee will submit a plan at the conference to allow establishment of an adequate mechanism for observing whether member countries adhere to their quotas," he said.

Iran asked Tuesday OPEC countries not to raise the level of production to keep prices up. According to the weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), the average price of the OPEC reference basket reached \$23.24 in October, exceeding the cartel's target of \$21 by more than \$2.

According to MEES, Iran and Indonesia have called for maintaining the current production ceiling of 25.033 million barrels a day for at least another year.

Asian Businessmen Take Tentative Steps Into Mideast

CAIRO (AFP) - A large contingent of Asian businessmen came to the Middle East Economic Conference here with their eyes open and business cards at the ready, but most left their investment funds safely at home.

"I think there are a great many potential Japanese investors in the region, but people are being very careful," explained Yoshiyuki Nogi, director of Soya Sance Manufacturers Kikkman.

"As well as the peace process, many people took huge losses during the Persian Gulf war. That is why people link economic progress to stability and why not many Asian businesses will invest money here in the near future," Nogi added, as the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference closed Thursday.

Yoshiaki Hatanaka, senior economist at the Tokyo Institute for International Economic Studies, blamed Asian caution on the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace process, and the sluggishness of the region's economy.

"Unfortunately there are a lot of investment opportunities in the world and the money goes where the best ones are. At the moment that is not here," he said.

Singapore foreign ministry official Ajit Singh, heading a five-

strong delegation, called the conference "positive" but added: "I am not sure Singapore businessmen are ready to invest heavily here yet."

Asked about the lack of large investment projects presented at the forum, Hiroshi Takano of Sony Corporation, said: "I think it is the political atmosphere, especially the Hebron issue."

The delayed Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, due to have taken place in March under 1993 self-rule accords, hung over the forum throughout the three-day session.

Yet despite the caution, Asian interest in the Middle East is slowly expanding - as witnessed

by the number of Asian businessmen among the 4,000 delegates.

Nearly 350 Asian businessmen attended, including 51 from Japan. At last year's conference in Amman there were 40 from Japan and at the first meeting in Casablanca in 1994 just three.

The vast majority of the imports are oil linked - 73 percent of Indian imports from the region in 1995, a total of nearly \$5.5 billion, came from the large Persian Gulf oil producers Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

ILO Calls for Immediate Action Against Child Labor

TEHRAN (United Nations Information Center) - Some 250 million children between the age of 5 to 14 are working in developing countries, nearly double the previous estimates, the International Labor Organization (ILO) says in a news report.

Of this total, some 120 million children are working full-time, and 130 million work part-time, says the ILO report. "Child Labor: Targeting the Intolerable".

"We all know that child labor is one of the faces of poverty and that many efforts over many years

will be required to eliminate it completely," says Michel Hanlon, Director-General of the ILO. "But, there are some forms of child labor today which are intolerable by any standard. These deserve to be identified, exposed and eradicated without further delay."

The ILO says that because the problem of child labor is so enormous and the need for action is urgent, choices must be made about where to concentrate the available human and material resources.

Hopes of Swift Rescue for Fokker Dented

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - The chances of a swift South Korean rescue deal for Dutch planemaker Fokker took a knock on Friday when administrators of the bankrupt company said they did not expect a decision by Seoul for at least two weeks.

South Korea's Samsung Aerospace Industries has been given

exclusive access to Fokker's books with a view to a possible takeover of its core planemaking business, but the process is taking longer than expected.

"Administrators anticipate no decision from the Korean government before the end of November," a statement from the administrators' office said.

Southeast Asia Seen Confronting Washington at APEC

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - Southeast Asian nations will object to a U.S. law that punishes firms for doing business with Iran and Libya and will resist moves to link trade with social issues at this week's APEC summit, analysts and officials say.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will also be pressing for Vietnam's admission into the group, now that a moratorium on new members expires this year. Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz told reporters.

ASEAN - Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - has become a key bloc in the multilateral APEC, which foresees a free trade area stretching from Washington to Jakarta and from Sydney to Beijing by 2020.

ASEAN members, who sometimes feel they have received their share of brokering over trade and human rights issues from the United States, plan to dish out some gripes of their own.

Malaysia, whose national oil company faces possible U.S. sanctions for investing in Iran, would challenge the Iran-Libya sanctions act at the November 25 summit, Rafidah said.

The act, passed in August, would impose sanctions on companies that invest more than \$40 million a year in the oil and gas sectors of the two countries.

"I don't think anybody subscribes to that extra-territorial jurisdiction," Rafidah said. "The U.S. is alone in that." She added that Malaysia planned to convey that message at the summit.

The issue may be quickly defused. The U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has said the government has not yet recommended sanctions against Malaysia or any other country under the act.

Singapore is likely to do some spadework at APEC to dissuade Washington from pressing social issues at December's inaugural meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which the island state is hosting. ASEAN diplomats said.

Washington has said it would raise issues such as child labor, low minimum wages and union rights at the WTO meeting, arguing such practices constitute unfair trade.

Indonesia is worried it will come under pressure at APEC over its controversial car policy. ASEAN diplomats said.

Italian MPs Approve Budget on First Reading

ROME (AFP) - Italian deputies Saturday approved a first reading of the stringent 1997 budget bill which is drafted to steer the lira back into European Monetary System (EMS) and drag the country into line for the single European currency.

The proposed budget is exceptionally austere for Italy, which is bidding to meet the Maastricht criteria to join European Monetary Union in the first wave in 1999.

An important feature of the bill is that it calls for cutting the budget deficit by more than \$41 billion compared with this year, through a planned \$24 billion in public spending cuts. The provision was approved by the deputies overnight Thursday.

The deficit will thus be

trimmed to less than three percent of GDP, in line with the Maastricht requirements.

The books will be balanced by a so-called "European Tax" on income which should raise \$8.5 billion.

The budget bill however avoided cutting into spending on pensions and health care, a condition demanded by the center-left coalition government's junior partner, the refoundation Communist Party.

The Italian government has said several times it would apply for the lira's return to the exchange rate mechanism as soon as the budget had been adopted on first reading. The currency was forced out of the EMS after being traded down by speculators in 1992.

The United States and Japan have threatened to take Indonesia to the WTO after the government awarded tax and tariff breaks to a company headed by President Suharto's youngest son which has a joint venture with South Korea's Kia Motors.

"I think Indonesia is worried other countries could use APEC to grandstand on the car issue," said Bruce Gale, the Singapore-based regional managing director of Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd.

Some ASEAN countries are expected to push Vietnam's membership into an expanded APEC. Rafidah said Vietnam was one

of 11 countries that have applied to join APEC, now that a three-year moratorium on new members is due to expire at the end of this year.

The other applicants are Russia, India, Pakistan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The topic could be controversial. Washington has been enthusiastic about Hanoi's entry, and one ASEAN diplomat said the issue could be put on the back burner to avoid acrimony.

"No one (in ASEAN) is questioning eventual membership for Vietnam. It's only a question of timing," he said.

World's Biggest Computer Confab Celebrates Chip, Internet



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The world's biggest computer confab, the Fall Comdex Convention, is celebrating both the 25th birthday of the microchip that created the computer revolution and the hot new Internet.

"Just as those chips and their successors revolutionized many aspects of business and entertainment, the Internet and its scion, the Intranet, are completely changing how people work, play and run their lives," said Comdex organizer Ann Zevnik.

The glitzy gambling capital of Las Vegas will see its population nearly double starting Monday, when 210,000 computer professionals - many of whom owe their jobs to the explosion of the

personal computer - arrive for a five-day convention.

An estimated 2,100 companies will be showing off more than 10,000 innovations in hardware, operating systems and software.

"The entire industry here at Comdex is jockeying for position in this new world," said Zevnik.

At Comdex, the computer chip has its own museum, showing its development from the 1970s when the pioneers of the personal computer industry first began work. Displays also include today's advanced semiconductors made by Intel and Motorola.

The Altair and Apple I, two of the first machines made with the revolutionary computer chip, show how it took just a few years to turn the computer world upside down.

Back then, giants such as IBM put their research and development into huge room-sized computers that cost millions of dollars. But times have changed and the personal computer nearly put the behemoths out of business.

One impetus was the success of a program that can make a series of changes with just a keystroke - a spreadsheet. Such programs, making software more accessible and affordable, made personal computers more desirable to businesses.

The development of personal computers led to a division of labor. Today Intel makes the chips and Microsoft the operating systems that run software in 85 percent of the PC market. Their revenues grew to nearly \$20 billion and \$9 billion, respectively.

The next question is what technology will dominate the exploding Internet market.

Economic Digest

BEIRUT - Private banks injected \$1 billion into the Lebanese economy between January and September this year, the chairman of the Association of Lebanese Banks was quoted as saying Saturday.

Francois Bassil told the Ad-Diyar newspaper that the cash flow, in the form of loans to various sectors of the economy, brought the total amount of capital invested by the banks to \$14.5 billion.

The association represents 91 private banks, with cash deposits and assets totaling \$18 billion.

Bassil told a meeting of the association's general assembly Friday that he expected the overall economic growth this year to reach 4.5 to 5 percent, a better performance than the forecast 3 percent. By contrast, the Lebanese economy expanded more than 15 percent in 1995.

AMMAN - More than 44 percent of the 255 new projects that have won license this year was geared toward the development of the industrial sector and hotels, an official said Saturday.

"Political stability brought about by the 1994 peace treaty with Israel is attracting investments," said Elias Farraj, assistant director general of the semi-independent Investment Promotion Corp.

He said of the new projects licensed between January and October this year, 185 related to the industrial sector, 36 to hotels, seven to agriculture, six to construction of new hospitals and one to maritime transport and railways.

BEIRUT - The Beirut Auto Show opened Saturday with the display of 69 makes and 300 models of sedans and trucks from the United States, Europe and Asia.

About 35 Lebanese dealers of international automakers are participating.

The show, organized by the Lebanese Association of Automobile Importers, is the fifth in Lebanon since 1955. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Friday evening and opened to the public on Saturday. It will continue through Nov. 22.

Statistics show that 1.7 million vehicles are on the roads in Lebanon, a country of 3 million. A total of 16,501 new vehicles were sold to the public in 1995.

KUWAIT - The National Bank of Kuwait has become the first bank in an Arab country to offer clients transaction services through their personal computers. Al-Watan daily reported Saturday.

It quoted Sheikh al-Bahar, NBK's deputy director general, as saying clients with PCs do not have to go to the bank anymore to make telex transfers, to transfer money from one account to another, to order checkbooks, send in payrolls or inquire about any account-related information.

Al-Bahar said the service, Watan 2000, was confidential and safe.

BAGHDAD - Two Pakistani firms have won a contract to supply Iraq with 41,800 tons of rice, Al-Jumhuriya daily reported Saturday.

Nabeel enterprises will ship 15,000 tons, at the cost of \$238 per ton to Iraq starting in December. Mahmood Co. will begin exporting 26,800 tons at the end of the month, Al-Jumhuriya said.

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Wadkins and "Walrus" Feast on Shark

Today in History

1970 - China names ambassador to Soviet Union, restoring top-level diplomatic relations for first time in four years. West Germany and Poland agree to restore relations, ending 31 years of enmity.

1976 - Twenty-seven people are executed in Ethiopia for alleged plots against two-year-old military government.

1977 - Egyptian Embassy in Athens is stormed by Palestinian students, and embassy in Beirut comes under rocket attack as protests spread over President Anwar Sadat's plan to visit Israel.

1978 - Jonestown massacre occurs in Guyana, with U.S. congressman and four other people killed as they try to leave People's Temple Camp - and almost 900 Cult members commit suicide.

1987 - Lawyers group reports systematic violations of Geneva convention bans on genocide, torture and use of chemical weapons by Soviet and allied troops in Afghanistan.

1989 - At least 800 people are killed in a week of fighting in El Salvador and a third of San Salvador's 1 million people are trapped without food or water during rebel siege.

1990 - Saddam Hussein promises to free remaining foreigners held hostage in occupied Kuwait starting on Christmas unless something "mars the atmosphere of peace" in the Persian Gulf.

1992 - Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan, is flown home to Karachi after being arrested in Islamabad, and may be placed under house arrest.

Sometimes Knowledge of Disease Helps in Grieving Process

BY DR. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Though my dad died about two years ago, I still grieve. His death was so sudden and unexpected at age 61 -- there one day and gone the next from a dissecting aneurysm.

Now I find there was similar death in the family of a close friend. It's time I learned more about this disease; it might help put my grief to rest. Can you tell me more about this killer?

ANSWER: Aortic dissection is not a rare disease, for there are about 2,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Men are affected about three times more frequently than women, and the disease is seen most frequently between the ages of 50 and 70, so your dad falls right into the averages.

Many of the patients with the condition have atherosclerosis and hypertension, although it may oc-

cur when no hypertension has been found. An aneurysm is the dilatation of an artery due to weakness and stretching of the artery wall, which bulges and forms a sac-like structure. This wall has three layers, and all three layers are involved in the formation of the sac.

The most commonly accepted explanation of the formation of a dissecting aneurysm is that a tear develops in the inner layer of the wall. The pressure within the vessel forces some of the blood into the tear and it gradually works its way between two layers in a process known as dissection.

The ascending aorta is the part of the aorta that starts at the heart, beginning at the aortic valve and curving upward and around within the chest before it turns downward leading to the abdomen and the

rest of the body (descending aorta). The descending part of the aorta is the most common site for dissecting aneurysms to occur.

The aneurysm may be present for some time before the dissection occurs and can be totally without symptoms. When the process of dissection starts, however, there is usually sharp pain. When this occurs, it is considered a true medical emergency for the possibility of death is quite high.

Treatment must start immediately with the goal of lowering the blood pressure and stabilizing the patient's condition. Immediate surgical intervention is needed in almost all cases of acute dissection and is the only hope to save the patient's life.

I hope this information helps you in your healing, for often understanding is the path to acceptance.

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT A FEW FLOATING SPECKS IN YOUR VISUAL FIELDS?



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DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham



"NO! I BET SOMEBODY WILL BE INTERRUPTED BY ME!"

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



A BIG SUNNY FIELD TO BE IN.



A STUPID FIELD? YOU'VE GOT THAT NOW! THINK BIG! RICHES! POWER! PRETEND YOU COULD HAVE ANYTHING!



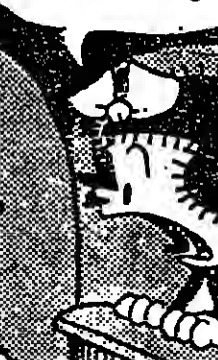
ACTUALLY, IT'S HARD TO ARGUE WITH SOMEONE WHO LOOKS SO HAPPY.



YOU'RE KIDDING!



ARE YOU SURE??



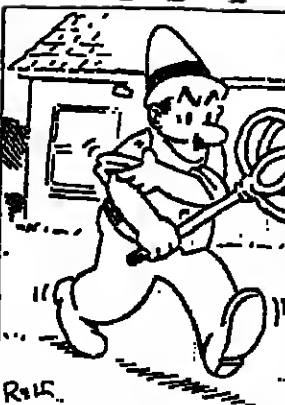
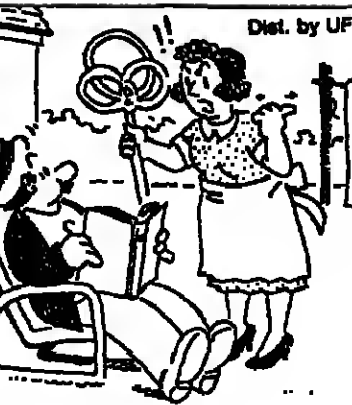
POSITIVE



THEY CAN'T PUT THE MOVIE ON "PAUSE" JUST SO YOU CAN GO TO THE BATHROOM



WHAT IF I PROMISED TO HURRY?



CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAUPE

YUMOS

LOEPPE

BRIMLE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A [] [] [] [] OF [] [] [] [] (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: EPOCH POISE FEEBLE REDUCE
Answer: Seldom heard at fund raising dinner -- "FREE" SPEECH

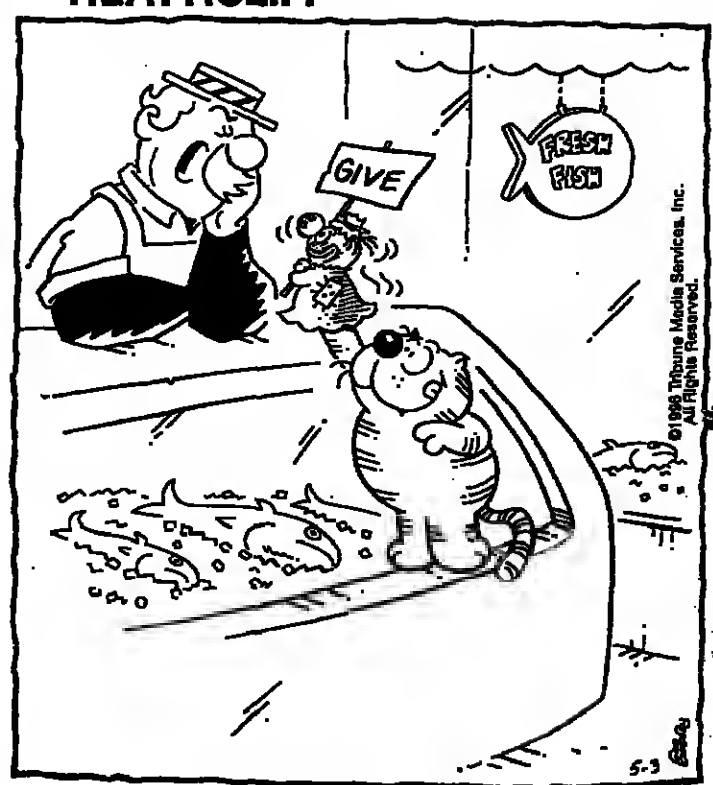
COLOCHICUM CATACUZENIUM Heldr.

Family: Liliaceae



This plant strongly resembles the other Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum*); nevertheless it flowers in spring. Leaves usually three. Flowers 2-3 pinkish or white. Bulb egg-shaped coated with a brownish tunic. It grows on the barren meadows of the alpine zone. Flowers February-May. Its presence is possible to other regions as well.

HEATHCLIFF



"I GAVE!"

مکافات لاجل

IRAN

FEATURE NEWS

Experts Declare Progress in U.S. War on Cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) - For the first time in at least 60 years, deaths from cancer are dropping steadily in the United States - a five-year trend that has led experts to shed their usual caution and declare true progress in the war on cancer.

"One of the most intractable diseases of the 20th century is now in decline," declared Brad Rodu, who with University of Alabama, Birmingham, colleague Dr. Philip Cole uncovered the trend. The government validated the Alabama's findings, saying overall cancer mortality among Americans dropped 3 percent between 1990 and 1995. That's not a big decline, but it was the first sustained drop since national record-

keeping began in the 1930s - and possibly the first since 1900.

And it was fueled by declines in fatal lung cancer that doctors have anxiously awaited for decades.

Comparable international statistics were not immediately available, and the Alabama findings only dealt with U.S. cases.

"This looks like a turning point in the 25-year war on cancer," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

Added National Cancer Institute Director Richard Klausner: "the 1990s will be remembered as the decade when we measurably turned the tide against cancer."

But the reports aren't all good news. The decline in mortality

was greater for men, who showed a 4.3 percent drop, than for women, at 1.1 percent. Again, lung cancer was the cause. Lung cancer mortality fell 6.7 percent in men but actually rose 6.4 percent in women, who are less likely to have quit smoking than men, the NCI reported.

And the decline in overall cancer mortality was greater among Black Americans than Whites, 5.6 percent vs. 1.7 percent, a finding experts attributed to recent campaigns to improve cancer care for minorities. Still, rates of cancer deaths among Black men remain 40 percent higher than for White men, the NCI said.

Great Lakes Blue Pike May Not Be Extinct

AMHERST, NEW YORK (AP) - Biologists say the Great Lakes blue pike, declared extinct more than 20 years ago, may not be gone for good after all.

Just a generation ago, the blue pike was a staple of fish fry dinners in western New York and accounted for the majority of commercial catches from Lake Erie. But in 1975 the blue pike was declared extinct after years of extensive fishing and pollution made it disappear from the Great Lakes region, its only known habitat.

Now evidence suggests that stocks of the blue pike may have survived in northern Canadian lakes, raising hope the fish could someday be returned to Lake Erie.

"That is not farfetched. I would say it's a much better chance than buying a lottery

ticket," said Dieter Busch, head of the federal government's lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office, located in this Buffalo suburb.

No fish has yet taken over the ecological niche occupied by the blue pike, which is smaller - and old-timers say tastier - than the yellow pike, or walleye, which is common today.

"The blue pike is a cousin to the walleye, as is the sauger," Busch said. "They're all part of the perch family."

Busch began to suspect blue pikes weren't extinct after hearing stories from fishermen who traveled north and seeing brochures from a Canadian fishing camp promising "both yellows and blues."

Hispanics Equally Prone to Common U.S. Genetic Ill

ATLANTA (Reuters) - The most common genetic disorder in the United States, which causes iron to build up in the body and damage organs, occurs as often among Hispanics as non-Hispanics, federal health experts said.

Researchers have long known that hereditary haemochromatosis, the cause of most cases of iron overload disease, mostly affects White males of Northern European descent.

But the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said screening of 15,000 patients at a San Diego Health Maintenance Organization had found that the prevalence of iron overload among Hispanics was similar to that of non-Hispanics.

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Genuine Iranian Tea, a Gift from Lahijan

Until a hundred years ago, such a simple and sincere courtesy would have surprised all Iranians, because at that time not a bush of tea was growing in Lahijan or any other parts of the country. But nowadays more than 32 thousand hectares land in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces are under tea plantation. Nearly 80 percent of our tea gardens are located in Gilan Province and 14 percent in Mazandaran Province. With the close cooperation of tea planters in Gilan and Mazandaran and sincere assistance of State Tea Organization (STO), this year the nation is expected to produce 60 thousand tons tea. But this amount does not meet the nation's need and another 10 thousand tons tea must be imported.

In fact tea is an agricultural produce which plays a remarkable role in the economy of the nation and its value as a foodstuff is no less than other basic crops such as wheat and rice because along with bread and cheese, tea serves as breakfast for the majority of Iranians. As a result, it has strategic significance for the nation's economy. But do we all know what pains is taken to produce the several cups of tea that we drink daily?

The following instructive report has been prepared to answer that question and many other pending questions with regard to tea, and when you read this article you might better enjoy your tea!

According to legends the tea bush was first discovered 5,000 years ago in China and its green leaves were used to paint woolen garments. Chinese and Indian tea planters are arguing about the original birthplace of tea and each claim to have presented the tea to the world and there are many beautiful tales and legends about such claims. One story says an Indian Brahmin had decided to pray day and night without a sleep.

But one day when he was deep in prayer he fell into sleep and dreamed of a woman whom once she had loved. From sheer anger the priest woke and he tore his eyelashes and threw them on the ground, to punish his indulgent self and never sleep again. On the following day where he had thrown the eyelashes on the ground two small green bushes sprang up which proved the ancestors of today's tea. According to that tradition a beverage made out of tea removes the fatigue in the body and renders gaiety to the drinker.

Efforts and achievements:

In 1958 the State Tea Organization (STO) was established to render technical services and support to tea planters under the Ministry of Customs and Monopoly and in 1990 it was transferred to the custody of Ministry of Commerce. But since tea and tea by-products were considered agricultural items, at the end of that year the Majlis ratified that the State Tea Organization was an independent institution and was placed under the supervision of Ministry of Agriculture. As of that date the experts and engineers of that ministry tried their best to improve tea plantation and processing methods and increase the output to attain self-sufficiency.

Up to September this year, STO has purchased 230 thousand tons tea green leaves or 52 thousand tons black tea at north of the country and it is expected to enhance tea black tea quantity to 60 thousand tons by the close of the year, showing a 14 thousand tons growth compared to a year ago. The reason for this growth is on time pruning, proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, improvement of tea plantation, employment of sprinkled pressure irrigation and proper harvesting of tea. Average yield of tea in 1992 was 45 thousand tons per annum (tpa) black tea which was upgraded to 52 thousand tpa in September this year. Besides seven private factories have purchased 1200 tons dry leave for processing.

To understand the significance



Camellia tea bushes are sometimes used as ornamental flowers.

of tea cultivation, one may review the figures produced below which were derived in 1373 (1994/95):

Tea is solely cultivated in tropical and semi-tropical acid contained soils in the world which is fortunately abundant in Gilan and Mazandaran. Tea plantations

south of Caspian Sea commences from Fomani west of Gilan and continues to Kalarabad west of Mazandaran in an area of 350 km on the fertile slopes of Alborz mountainous range and covers 32,659 hectares area, 52,000 rural families, 774 villages and



Mixed Bahareh tea, pleasant and refreshing like the spring.

Tea botany: 90 years evergreen life!

Chay (derived from Chinese word Tei) is the name of a bush tree and by steeping its leaves, a soft beverage develops which is called tea. The mother bush called Thea Camellia or Thea Sinensis, is always green and is originated in Southeast Asia. So far 15 varieties of tea have been discovered in India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, Java, Malacca, Jamaica, South America, India, Iran, etc.

The shrub is a self-growing wild species that at times expands and stretches to 15 meters, but the improved shrubs reach between 60 to 100 cm height because their stems and leaves are continuously pruned unless they become too bulky. In order to

allow the bush to strengthen and produce more leaves.

The tea bushes are multiplied by sowing and multiplying the seed. When the sapling is between 3 to 5 years old, the leaves are harvested. Each tea bush lives 50 years (some say 90 years) and bears leaves.

The tea leaves which never wither are dark green turning to black and moist. The bushes are growing near tropical belt of the earth such as Java, Sri Lanka, etc., and where the weather is warm and damp they grow abundantly. The bush does tolerate below zero temperatures and in such freezing point it stops to grow.

72,500 farms are engaged in tea plantation.

Important steps taken by STO during years 1992 to 1995:

1. From 1992 to 1995 more than 15 million seed saplings and 4.5 million graphs of tea were delivered to tea planters by STO to improve tea plantations, increase area under cultivation and reduce production costs.

2. To cope with dry seasons and provide enough irrigation water for farms, 2,500 hectares of tea plantations have been sprinkled irrigated and another 3,327 hectares will be irrigated in the same manner.

3. 3,600 pruning and leave cutting machines have been delivered to 5,000 farmers.

4. Average black tea produced in previous years was 45,000 tpa which has been improved to 56,000 tpa.

5. Biologic fighting with pests in different stations and gardens were done and by building 'insectariums' and raising 'winter cockroaches', big steps were taking in that direction.

6. 1,652 soil and water samples have been tested in laboratories to determine the percentage of fertility of land for establishment of tea gardens.

7. The volume of tea processing factories has raised to 2,486 tons in 1995.

8. 20 permits for tea processing factories have been issued for processing a total of 545 tons tea leaves a day in different regions in Gilan and Mazandaran.

9. Import has been reduced from 30 thousand tpa to 10 thousand tpa during these years.

10. Applied researches have been conducted to determine the stages of plantation, study the soil, fertilizer, grafting to improve bushes and examine suitable areas for tea plantation, mechanization of gardens and use of green fertilizers and organic matters to increase productivity.

11. Selection of genuine and prolific bushes and use of foreign saplings adaptable to Iranian climate.

12. Establishment of research stations to help the tea planters in Gilan and Mazandaran.

13. Training nearly 25,000 farmers on the latest scientific tea plantation techniques.

14. Improvement of tea packing and storage process in different conditions.

15. Construction of 100 thousand sq m warehouse in Varamin and Mardabad and Lahijan, Rasht.

Genuine Iranian Tea



Diligent women cutting the tea

16. Construction of tea processing factory to process 75 thousand tons tea leaves a day by Sefidrud Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Co.

Plans for improvement of farming and species: By launching these plans, the

amount of green leaves will be increased to 83 thousand tpa or 18.8 thousand tpa black tea which will save the nation 56 million dollars in imported tea if one kg. black tea is traded at 3 dollars.

Production increase: Due to increase of population,

Uncertain was scarce and a luxury item

In his 'History of Civilization' in the chapter referring to tea, Henry Lucas says: "For centuries tea was a favorite Chinese beverage. The fact is that Europeans were wholly ignorant of tea during the Middle Ages."

After Vasco Dagama, the Portuguese adventurer navigator (1469-1524) landed in China, Portugal became the first country to learn about tea. After that Dutch merchants who had learned from the Chinese to drink tea, carried back tea to Europe and since its trade was under their monopoly, although it was produced abundantly in Java, Indonesia, the Dutch sold 100 dollars a kilograms in Europe and made enormous profit in that business.



A basket of tea leaves, gathered by 100 planters.



Tea leaf harvester and pruning machine.

مکتبہ اسلامیہ

Have A Cup of Tea!

Iranian Tea, a Gift from Lahijan



Tea leaves.

45 million dollars in exported tea. STO's future policies for self-sufficiency:

Based on present plans, should the Ministry of Jihad supply the necessary lands or the ruined forests to STO, we will achieve self-sufficiency. Due to limited lands available for tea cultivation, we need a minimum of 5,000 hectares forest land during the Second Plan to expand tea cultivation to produce enough tea in order to respond to the growing population.

Since in the future the exporting nations will face population growth and must lower their imports, it is necessary to make investment for expansion of this industry in the country to stop outflow of foreign exchange. To achieve that end during the Second Plan STO will launch the following projects:

1. Sprinkled irrigation system

During the Second Plan, 5,200 hectares of tea farms will be sprinkled irrigated at a cost of 20.8 million rials of which 15.6 million

lands at north will be put under tea cultivation and seven years after plantation of saplings, the new gardens will produce about 45,000 tons green leave (about 10,125 tons black tea) at a total cost of 30 billion rials which will be paid as loan to the farmers.

3. Rehabilitation of ruined gardens:

During the Second Plan, 5,000 hectares of ruined gardens will be rehabilitated and replanted which will produce 10,000 tpa green leave (or about 2,250 tpa dry leave).

4. Replacement of aged bushes:

Presently 3000 hectares tea gardens have been identified to replace the aged bushes with new bushes. This project will fetch 24,000 tpa tea leave (about 5,400 tpa black tea) at a cost of 30 billion rials. 19.5 billion rials will be paid as loan and the rest as gratis to farmers.

5. Storage of tea:

Presently the government is paying billions of rials for renting

How tea was brought to Iran?

In this article we have given a short history of birth of tea bush and specification of that ever-green plant. Now we wish to answer this question: Since when tea was introduced in this country and became popular and who was the pioneer in planting the first tea shrub in Iran?

Historical records indicate that before the 17th century nobody knew anything about tea in Iran. According to foreign travelers, tea was used in Iran only by the elite dignitaries and princes attached to the royal courts in the beginning of 17th century. In other words, during the Irano-Russian War during the reign of Fathalishah, the Qajar king, the Iranians learnt its use from the Russians. At the time tea was not planted in Iran and the imported tea was very expensive and only the rich class and courtiers could afford to use tea.

Old Iranian medical books refer to Khatayi tea or Shay which is the Arabic word for tea. We know that Khata, mentioned in Islamic sources, is referred to a northern territory in China and Khatayi tea means a tea which is grown north of China. The oldest book in Arabian and Persian languages which refers to tea is Sidneh, written by renowned Iranian scholar Abureyhan Birouni who lived during years 362-440 A.H. In this book Birouni bases his information on Indian sources.

Anyhow the first efforts to cultivate tea in Iran was during the end of Nasiruddinshah, the Qajar king's reign.

In 1302 A.H. Hajj Ahmad Isfahani tried to cultivate the tea bush in Iran but did not succeed because he was not familiar with the technique. 16 years later (1318 A.H. or 1900 A.D.), Mohammad Mirzakhani or Kashefolsaltaneh (meaning discoverer) who was the Iranian consul in India and was aware of the enormous money spent by Iranians for import of



The late Mohammad Mirza Kashefolsaltaneh, who founded tea plantation in Iran.



Kashefolsaltaneh's mausoleum, raised in ever green tea farm, Lahijan.

tea, decided to import tea saplings from India to Iran and plant it here. Many fables have descended from Mohammad Mirzakhani.

One story says Mirzakhani or Kashefolsaltaneh who was master of French language mixed himself with a French team that were working in Indian tea plantations.

Presuming to be a member of that team, Mirzakhani entered Indian tea plantations and factories and learnt the techniques of tea cultivation and processing. After that he carried 4,000 tea saplings and seed to Iran with much difficulty because of difficult passage to sea and land transportation at

that time, and planted them in Lahijan which had a lime-free soil and a suitable climate for tea cultivation.

Subsequent to this experimental work by Kashefolsaltaneh, tea cultivation became gradually popular in the Caspian Sea coastline areas. In 1900 tea cultivation had so spread that the monopoly patent of Kashefolsaltaneh was canceled and the tea farms spread to Langand, Tonkabon, Rudsar, Fowman, Lakan and Mazandaran and in 1927 the Department of Agriculture established a department for expansion of tea gardens and freely supplied tea saplings to tea planters to encourage tea cultivation. With the government's encouragement, tea plantations expanded north of Iran in 1929. In that year Kashefolsaltaneh once more traveled to India to bring more improved tea saplings and seeds and spices, but upon his return, he was killed in a car accident. Some say he dropped down from his horse from a mountain peak near Bushehr and died.

However, the grateful people of Gilan and particularly Lahijan, who had prospered thanks to Kashefolsaltaneh's efforts and national zeal, raised a splendid mausoleum for him in the evergreen tea plantations to pay glowing tribute to that pioneer as an appreciation of his valuable service to his countrymen, and they always remember and cherish his memory with reverence.

With the abolition of tea monopoly during the Constitutional Era (which was owned by the royal system) and expansion of tea plantation in Gilan and Mazandaran and import of samovar from Russia, drinking this harmless beverage has become a popular habit for the Iranians.

Samovar which is a Russian word is not separate from tea in meaning. In Russian samovar means self boiling, which apparently refers to tea.



the rate of tea consumption is increasing each year which makes it necessary to increase our tea plantations in the northern regions which is the only suitable area for raising tea. Since it will take eight years to harvest a sapling, the 4,570 hectares newly planted during the First and Second Plans will produce 15 thousand hectares tpa tea which will save the nation

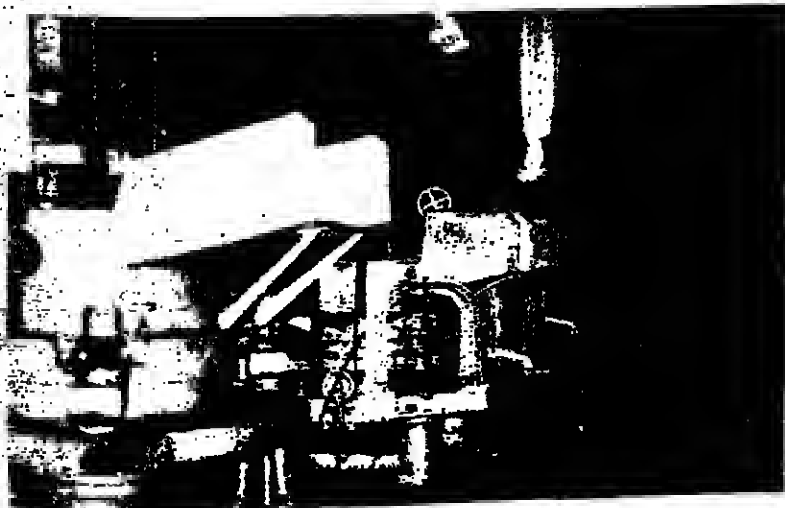
rials will be loaned to the farmers to be paid back in installments. The remaining 5.2 million rials will be paid by STO gratis to farmers to encourage tea plantation. This project will increase 21,840 tpa tea leave (about 4914 tpa black tea).

2. Expansion of tea farms:

During the Second Plan approximately 3,000 hectares new

warehouses for storage of tea which are not technically suitable. Should we build warehouse, sorting, classification and mixing workshops and packaging workshops, we will make a lot of saving in our expenditures and can enhance the quality of tea. STO is presently following this policy and is building four warehouses which will be finished shortly.

To sum up, once these projects are executed during the Second Plan, a total of 100,840 tpa green leave additional teal (22,689 tpa black tea) will be achieved which will save the nation 68 million dollars in imported tea. By improving the tea quality, per capita consumption will drop from 1500 grams to 1200 grams, import will be reduced, the present total consumption of 119,510 tpa tea will be lowered to 98,420 tpa, import will be reduced by 38,336 tons and the nation will save 131 million dollars.



Tea leaf crushing machine.

Several thousand years history of tea in the world

In his History of Civilization, Henry Lucas says, tea as a refreshing beverage was a Chinese invention and its history goes back to the fourth century A.D.

Historical records indicate that tea was first used in China 3200 years before birth of Christ. In Chinese temples the boiled leaves of tea shrub were used as medicine to cure patients. Gradually its use was spread all over China and it was used in many feasts and ceremonies as a beverage. Such a wide reception encouraged the farmers to launch on tea cultivation.

Meanwhile foreign merchants and travelers who visited China brought back the tea as a gift for relatives. For the first time Marco Polo, the Venetian explorer, imported tea to Europe (1254-1324) and it gradually became popular among rich masses of the community and courtiers and elites in Europe and Asia. But since it was a very expensive commodity, the common people had no access to this delicious and soothing beverage. For thousand years tea cultivation and processing was under strict monopoly of the Chinese and they were zealously protecting these vital secret and lucrative trade. But gradually tea became a leading important item for them and the Portuguese, English and Dutch merchants imported tea to Europe. In later years the Britons gradually took over the monopoly of Chinese tea and exported it to other coun-

tries and made enormous profit. At first they paid gold and silver to buy tea. But the Chinese had a weak point. They were profuse users of poppy and used to smuggle poppy from India. Then the English merchants proposed to barter poppy against tea from India which was their colony instead of paying gold or silver! After a year the Chinese learnt that they had been deceived and refused to sell tea against poppy.

England which had despaired from trading tea with China, decided to raise it in India and in 1834 they carried tea saplings to India to plant there but did not succeed since they had been given poor bushes and seeds! Then that country sent a British spy to China, well versed in Chinese, and this man learnt all the techniques and secrets of tea plantation and processing and in 1853 he imported 20 thousand healthy saplings to India and this time the shrubs blossomed.

Since then tropical India became a tea producer itself. Simultaneously the Indians discovered improved versions of tea wild bushes in Assam province jungles which made a great revolution in tea plantation industry in that country.

In 1869 James Taylor started tea cultivation in Sri Lanka and now India and Sri Lanka are the two major producers and exporters of tea around the world.

China Film Directors Urged to Keep Masses in Mind

BEIJING (Reuters) - China on Monday accused a group of award-winning film directors of pandering to international judges and urged the moviemakers to make more films directed at common Chinese.

Film critics meeting in Beijing said recent works produced by such acclaimed directors as Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige were well made but lacked meaning, the Beijing Youth Daily said.

"They just concentrate on the judging committees for Cannes and the Oscars... but do not associate with ordinary Chinese people," the newspaper quoted Shanghai magazine editor Lu Xing'er as saying.

The critics slammed Zhang, Chen and other directors, known as China's "fifth generation" of filmmakers, as having filled their films with empty and profane dialogue that only buried the stories.

"Why have movies appeared that have grand facades but are devoid of content?" Lu asked.

"Works of the fifth generation directors have entered mistaken territory," he said.

Another critic had singled out Zhang, creator of several celebrated works such as "Ju Dou", "Raise the Red Lantern" and "To Live", as pandering to Western film critics by disparaging Chinese culture.

"He does not hesitate to offer up the ugly things in our culture to please Western judging panels, and winning prizes because of it," the newspaper quoted the critic as saying.

China's movie mandarins have moved recently to axe a number of controversial films as part of a crusade to resurrect socialist ethics, or "spiritual civilization". Output of China's movie studios has dropped drastically this year.

Woody Allen, Groucho, Godard and the Good People of the Titanic

NEW YORK (AP) - He looks so pale, ghostly pale, almost beautifully pale.

The face of Woody Allen tells a story, a New York story. For when he fell in love with the city, he fell in love through the movies. And when he fell in love with the movies, he loved them more than summer and sun.

What does he get from movies? It depends on what he's looking for. To forget about the world, Allen watches comedies. When he's ready to ponder it, he chooses drama.

You can see this in his own work. Twenty years ago, as his career peaked with "Annie Hall," he turned away from comedy. He called his earlier work trivial and said he needed to risk disappointing his audience. As his character in "Stardust Memories" laments, "I look around the world and all I see is human suffering."

But in the four years since his uncommonly nasty breakup with Mia Farrow he has made four surprisingly light-hearted movies: "Manhattan Murder Mystery," "Bullets Over Broadway," "Mighty Aphrodite" and his new film, "Everyone Says I Love You."

The new movie is not only a comedy, it's a musical comedy, the title song borrowed from the great Marx brothers movie "Horse Feathers." At the end of "Everyone," Allen even dresses up like Groucho.

Besides Allen, the cast includes Julia Roberts, Alan Alda, Goldie Hawn and Drew Barrymore. The soundtrack features songs by Cole Porter, Harry Woods and Rodgers and Hart. Just about everyone sings, including Allen.

Few have the right to wear the Groucho mustache, but Allen is an exception. He's a worthy inheritor of a great comic tradition, and a major influence on comedians today.

What Chaplin started, Allen updated and made personal. Chaplin gave the screen comic a soul; Allen added angst. Every comedian who sketches on camera - and they all seem to do it these days - owes something to Woody Allen.

The ideal place to have interviewed him might have been in a movie theater, or fancy restaurant, or in his apartment on Fifth Avenue. This recent meeting took place in a Manhattan hotel, in midtown, a bit south of the more affluent neighborhoods in which Allen usually sets his films.

He sat in a small armchair, legs pressed together, arms alternately folded or crossed over his legs, the pale face contrasted by the familiar black-rimmed glasses. He came across as a man moving out of middle age into something like a state of grace, an odd one perhaps, but then what else would you expect from Woody Allen?

Here are highlights from the interview:

Q: Your new movie is about people impulsively leaving long-term relationships, and then regretting it. Given what's known about your own recent history, this seems pretty ironic.

A: My friends were getting married and it wasn't working. Women I knew were going with guys and they weren't happy. ... I couldn't look around me and find anybody who had a good, solid, lasting relationship of the type we were taught that was the kind we

were supposed to aspire towards, and to which it felt natural to aspire towards.

Q: In "Alice" (a 1990 film that starred Farrow), you seemed to have the opposite message, that it was great for that character to bust out of an unhappy marriage.

A: Yes, and there are times that is the proper ending. When I was very young and married for the first time ... We liked each other but what did we know about life?

She was just out of high school. She was just a kid. What happened was ... I could see our marriage was not working, as she could, and I thought to myself the happy ending to this story is that both of us decided we should break up. Allen was married a second time to actress Louise Lasser, from 1966-1970.)

Q: In your new movie, there's a scene in which you and Goldie Hawn look back on your relation-

life is all about. Is that what comedy does for you?

A: When I was younger, I lived in this lower middle-class neighborhood, and I would be in reality. It would be hot and sunny and noisy and trafficky, and suddenly you walk into the movie house and it would be dark and there would be Groucho and Harpo and for an hour and a half, or not quite in those days, it would be a riot, it would just be hilariously funny.

him wonderful. He was actually like a Jewish uncle. ... It was just like meeting that uncle at a wedding who is always doing the jokes. In your uncle's case, some are funny and some aren't. And in Groucho's case, they were all funny. I remember how interesting it was whenever I went out with him. ... People would come over and say hello and they were always slighted if he didn't insult them.

Q: You're 60 now and at the end of the new movie, there's a great sense of nostalgia, not for a particular period of time, like in "Radio Days," but for your own life. You seemed to be looking back over your life.

A: I'm very aware of that. I was very aware when I turned 50, very aware, and it depressed me and it frightened me. And when I turned 60, I couldn't believe it. I really was aware of it. I'm hyperaware.

But the movie was nostalgic for the life I have lived on the upper east side of Manhattan. I love Manhattan. I love where I live, and I wanted to make a film about it. If it was an homage to anything, it was to the neighborhood I live in.

Q: Do you think you're ready to express in a movie what happened a few years ago in the custody battle you had with Mia Farrow?

A: I don't think I can express it in a fictional movie. I think I could do a documentary on what happened.

Q: Would you ever do something like that?

A: I might. I might.

Q: Any chance of being friends with Mia Farrow again?

A: I don't think that will happen. I don't think that could happen. But you know, you never know. Life is very unpredictable.



Woody Allen and his New Orleans jazz band made a 14-city European tour in spring

ship and your lives. There's a real sense of regret about relationships that didn't work out.

A: Diane Keaton and I lived together for some years, and are particularly friendly and are very close and when I was writing this story I thought this was particularly true of Diane and myself.

But then as I was writing it I realized Diane was not going to be able to play the part because she was scheduled to do "Marvin's Room." I figured, "Well I'll cast somebody else." But I was thinking of Diane when I wrote it.

Q: This movie, like "Hannah and Her Sisters," ends with a tribute of sorts to the Marx brothers. In both cases, the Marx brothers seem to be about lifting your spirits, rediscovering what

And Groucho has always been a symbol to me of escaping into that surreal world of just bilarity, where nothing counted. All the rules were broken. It was just great.

Q: In the new movie, you and Goldie Hawn dress up like Groucho. What was it like putting on the mustache and eyebrows?

A: I liked it. I wish I could have done it more. I could see the appeal it had for people who played him on stage. It's great. You do what all actors do, and that is start playing your costume.

Q: You knew Groucho, didn't you?

A: Yes, I knew him fairly well, in the last 10 years of his life (Marx died in 1977), and I found

Shanghai Builds Prestige Library, Opera House

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Shanghai is building a combined theater and opera house which it says will be the largest in Asia and more advanced than the Sydney Opera House or the Lincoln Center in New York.

Last month it opened a dazzling 400 million yuan (\$48.2 million) Antiques Museum and will next month open Asia's third-biggest library costing 600 million yuan.

These are just three of the prestige projects the city is building out of its own pocket, after 40 years of neglect, in its rush to regain what it sees as its rightful place as one of the premier cities in Asia and the world.

The opera house - or Grand Theater as it is officially called - is the most spectacular, with a price tag of \$133 million. The building looks over the People's Square in the city center, opposite the New Museum.

"Our Grand Theater will be the largest in Asia (in seats and capacity) and more advanced than Sydney Opera House and the Lincoln Center in terms of cost and equipment," said Le Shengli, chief of the project's engineering work.

"It is a matter of regret that a big international city like Shanghai does not have a high-class, large-scale venue to receive orchestras

and performers like Pavarotti," he said.

The stage lighting system will be imported from a Belgian subsidiary of Siemens, the sound system from JBL Co of the United States, the stage facilities from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan and the seats from Italy.

Le visited theaters and opera houses in France, Italy, the United States and Australia for ideas.

Visiting orchestras currently play in the 1,100-seat Shanghai Concert Hall built in 1930, in the city's basketball stadium or a meeting hall in the city government building.

Work on the new building, which features an auditorium of 2,000 seats, began in September 1994 and the building is due to open on October 1, 1998.

The opera house is being built on land that was part of Shanghai's racecourse before the communist takeover in 1949.

Next door, in what was the race clubhouse, is the Shanghai Library, which is moving next month to a huge new site in the city's southwest.

"Our new building will be a monument and symbol of Shanghai," said Wu Jianzhong, deputy director of the library.

Book Review

"The Little Fish" and Other Stories

By Mina Honarbakhsh

Published by Ketab Sara Co. & Honarbakhsh

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Mina Honarbakhsh has written quite a few books in English which are worth reading. Her stories are well-written accounts of events which have or might have happened.

In her book, "And So the Robots Came..." she tells the story of Edouard, a Parisian living in the 21st century. Edouard does not belong to his time not because he cannot relate to it, but because of the way the world treats him.

It tells how he loses his wife and how his friends want him only for what he spends on them, although he is not a rich man.

He begins to develop a love for robots, due to his work which began as an office clerk yet changed to a robot operator because of changes in his workplace.

He then decides to buy a robot after he is restricted from staying after work and talking to the robots in his office. He could not afford a robot and decides to get a second job.

After three years of working and saving, he finally buys a robot. The robot he buys develops a friendship with him and he is happy in life for sometime yet the ending of the story is quite sad, when the robot strangles Edouard in his sleep.

Honarbakhsh employs the same overall dramatic structure and literary style in another of her novels, entitled "Man's Fate... Woman." It starts out with a girl and a boy, both living in Paris and students of medicine. Jean comes from a family with financial difficulties and

Giselle from a financially well-off family.

Jean and Giselle love each other yet cannot get married due to Giselle thinking that her father would not agree. She decides to help Jean, who is working, pass the Internat exams which

she believes is going to be impossible for him.

She gets a job as a janitor in an office which is responsible for cleaning government buildings and moves out of her parents house telling them that she is going to Montpellier.

Throughout the story, she goes through many hardships and suffers quite a lot.

She finally succeeds in stealing an Internat exam paper and then meets Jean after quite a long time telling him of what she was doing all this time. Jean takes the exam paper and shreds it after their meeting.

He succeeds and is placed first without cheating. Giselle who is happy about Jean's success, is attacked by an AIDS maniac whilst she is waiting for the subway to open.

Once again, in this story, just like in "Zolda" which is another one of her stories, someone is sacrificed for the well being of others. Also, another very visible trait in her writing is the abrupt end after the climax of the story.

In "The little Fish" Honarbakhsh uses the same technique to tell the story of a little fish whose dream of being transformed into a human being comes true. Later, however, the little creature realizes that each living being belongs to a specific milieu.



Handwritten text in Persian script, likely a signature or a note related to the book review or the artist of the illustration.

IRAN
POLITICAL NEWS

CIA Chief Verbally Mauled Over Alleged CIA Drug Peddling in Black Area

LOS ANGELES, U.S.A. (AFP) - Angry residents of one of Los Angeles' most drug-infested neighborhoods blasted the CIA director Friday at a town meeting over charges the spy agency flooded the community with cocaine.

Under heavy guard, Central Intelligence Agency Director John Deutch was met with hoots and shouts of "murderer" when he began to speak in Watts, an area emblematic of U.S. urban blight.

Scores of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers were posted in and around Alain Leroy Locke High School whose auditorium was packed to capacity while sharpshooters patrolled from rooftops.

The presumed plot which has many African-Americans here up in arms is alleged to have involved associates of the CIA selling drugs in predominantly Black neighborhoods to fund an anti-Communist crusade in Nicaragua during the 1980s, creating a crack epidemic in the home front.

"It is an appalling charge. It goes to the heart of this country. A charge that cannot go unanswered," Deutch said, noting that an independent inspector general would investigate and return a re-

port in six months. Deutch delivered his promise with conviction, but the capacity crowd of 500 mostly Black residents clearly was not buying what he was selling.

"Excuse me, Mr. CIA-man," one agitated woman in the audience called out loudly. "But how are we supposed to believe that the CIA is going to investigate itself?"

Deutch insisted the inspector general would operate independently with access to all CIA documents and personnel as well as those from other government agencies.

As proof, he offered that an inspector general investigation had resulted in jail sentences for some CIA employees accused abusing credit cards, which drew derisive laughter from the obviously skeptical audience.

"Our activities are secret. I understand people are suspicious of the CIA," Deutch said, adding un-

phatically, "I will get to the bottom of it and I will let you know what we find."

The allegations were first printed by the San Jose Mercury News. Recently, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and

the Washington Post all ran lengthy stories that largely repudiated the claims.

Still, the allegations grew deep roots in this impoverished community that has been ravaged by drugs, with one member of the audience suggesting that the media was on the CIA payroll.

One of the evening's surprises came from a man who identified himself as Mike Rupert, a former member of the Los Angeles Police Department's Narcotics Division, who told Deutch the CIA's drug involvement was well known by police.

Deutch asked him to report it to the LAPD, which drew whoops of laughter from residents whose disdain of police is widespread. Then he invited him to report it to other law enforcement authorities.

The distrust here was palpable. And there are historical reasons for it. To many Blacks here, it is not only conceivable but entirely be-

lievable that they would be targeted by their own government.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation spied on Black civil rights leader Reverend Martin Luther King in the 1960s in an effort to discredit him, and then on the more

militant Black Panthers to disrupt them.

And there was the notorious U.S. Public Health Service study in Tuskegee, Alabama that began in the 1930s when 650 poor Black men with syphilis were promised therapy by scientists.

Instead, they went untreated for 40 years so the scientists could study the long-term disfiguring effects of the venereal disease that spread through the community.

"Why'd you bring this man into this community?" One member of the crowd demanded angrily of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, who invited Deutch.

"What is he doing here?" She defended her actions by saying he bravely took the unprecedented step to come to Watts

to answer residents' questions, something she said past CIA directors would have never done.

But Millender-McDonald was not about to let the CIA off the hook, and she summed up the sentiments of many. "It is not up to us to prove the CIA was involved in drug trafficking south central Los Angeles," she said. "Rather, it is up to them to prove that they were not."

The Specter of War Still Haunts Bosnia

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - The risk of fresh bloodletting still haunts Bosnia a year after the guns fell silent, making unavoidable the decision to extend the NATO peacekeeping mission, Western officials say.

On Monday NATO diplomats will formally decide on the size and composition of a new force for Bosnia where continuing tensions between the former warring factions have recently spilled over into bloodshed.

"The patient is still in danger of dying," was how U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry described the situation in Bosnia one year after the Dayton Peace Accords were concluded.

A dangerous cocktail of factors still smolders in Bosnia, capable of re-igniting the vicious ethnic conflict, observers warn. The country's economy lies in tatters, unemployment is high, at 70 percent and nationalist leaders remain in power.

Furthermore, the U.S.-backed program to re-arm the combined Muslim-Croat army is an incentive for those seeking revenge to wait to settle old scores militarily, European officials believe.

Meanwhile, observers say, one

unresolved issue will dominate the coming weeks and months: the potentially explosive predicament of some two million refugees and displaced people.

Mainly Muslims and Croats expelled from areas under Serb control their return is the vehicle for reclaiming territory lost to the Serbs during the war.

Serbs account for around a third of Bosnia's population but now control half of the country. Few non-Serbs live in these areas, and the ultra-nationalist Serb authorities are opposed to any of those they expelled from returning.

"The greatest error at Dayton was to give the impression that one could build a durable peace and a perfect state within one year," Carl Bildt, Bosnia's peace envoy, commented recently.

In recent months, incidents along the boundary line that separates the Bosnian Serb half of Bosnia from its Muslim-Croat run counterpart have multiplied.

The former front line, stretching for some 1,050 kilometers (600 miles) remains a sensitive region. Patrolled by NATO peacekeepers, the zone has seen a pattern of Serb destruction of Muslim houses to prevent returns. At the same time it has witnessed Muslim attempts to pre-empt this by occupying their abandoned villages in Serb-run areas. Clashes have ensued.

The most serious was last week when Serbs clashed with Muslims who had moved overnight into a village in northeast Bosnia. One man, a Muslim, died and several were injured including at least two Serb policemen.

Formally, IFOR's mandate ends on December 20. Much of their work has been achieved. They have separated the former warring armies and overseen the cantonment of weapons into carefully regulated sites.

But stability in the region remains elusive. Hence the expected decision in Brussels on Monday for details of an IFOR successor, or stabilization force as it is becoming to be known.

Numbering some 30,000 troops, roughly half of IFOR original size, the new force will be expected to remain in Bosnia at least until the summer of 1998. Perry indicated that a further extension could also be on the cards.

In this continuing unstable context, the \$400 million program to train and equip the federation forces worries many European officials.

Intended to redress the imbalance in military force between the two halves of Bosnia, a major factor allowing the better armed Bosnian Serbs to dictate the course of the war, the Europeans fear that more weapons means more war.

Already, several major consignments of heavy weapons including tanks and artillery are on their way to Bosnia. This is in addition to the arms secreted into the country during the conflict which labored under a U.N. arms embargo.

If for the moment, the renewal of armed conflict is excluded, the ingredients for fresh bloodletting are ever present, as was clearly evident in the bloody clash in northeast Bosnia last week.

The ability of the new peacekeeping force to maintain the peace will depend on the continued attention of the international community, observers say.

Pakistan's Interim Government Makes Unsteady Start

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (Reuters) - Pakistan's caretaker government has made a wobbly start since President Farooq Leghari sacked Benazir Bhutto for alleged corruption and misuse of power, analysts say.

Meraj Khalid, the 80-year-old politician Leghari named as interim prime minister, has reiterated a vow to hold a general election on February 3, as prescribed in the constitution.

Yet political analysts say the 90-day interim period may prove too short to put in place serious mechanisms to combat corruption, turn an ailing economy around or undertake badly needed political reforms, including the first census since 1981.

"It is self-deceiving to believe that the elections are going to leave the country out of the political morass," wrote 'Sayed Takat Hussain in the English-language daily the news.

Many Pakistanis reacted with relief and delight at the fall of the Bhutto government, which in its three years in power lurches from one economic crisis to another, crushed ethnic militants in Karachi at the cost of many lives and won an unequaled, but unsubstantiated, name for corruption.

But few look back with great nostalgia on the performance of Bhutto's main rival Nawaz Sharif, whose 30-month stewardship until July 1993 was also marred by allegations of graft.

Questions about Leghari's "constitutional coup" remain unanswered. Why was it done in the middle of the night? What prompted its apparent haste? How big a role did the army play?

Sources at the presidential palace say that army chief of staff General Jehangir Karamat and Supreme Court Justice Sajjad Ali Shah both met Leghari in the hours before Bhutto's removal.

Leghari himself, suffering from unexplained ailments, has kept silent since addressing the



MERAJ KHALID

nation late on November 5 to justify the dismissal of his long-time political patron.

The impression of confusion and lack of direction is dimming hopes of many Pakistanis that Khalid's caretakers will cleanse their country of deep-rooted abuses practiced by members of its privileged ruling elite on both sides of the political divide.

A vengeful Bhutto has lambasted Leghari for hypocrisy in allowing his brother-in-law and classmates to be appointed in an interim Cabinet supposedly fighting nepotism.

Freely insulting his leadership qualities, she has also asked how he can complain of extra judicial killings in Karachi after previously lauding her crackdown on militants there.

Apart from keeping herself in the headlines, Bhutto, 43, has petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn her dismissal by Leghari, who used controversial powers dating from the era of military rule to oust her and dissolve Parliament on November 5.

The case has yet to be heard, but even Bhutto's own lawyers privately admit that her public quarrels with the judiciary during her last six months in power may damage her chances of being reinstated, as Sharif's dismissed government was in 1993.

Khalid has promised to bring "all kinds of charges" against Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari, who has been detained along with several senior bureaucrats and intelligence agents.

The government has transferred scores of other bureaucrats and police officers, and barred many from leaving the country. However no charges have been filed against the suspects, held under a catch-all maintenance of public order law.

Some new appointments have raised eyebrows. Two journalists have joined the government without quitting their old jobs, columnist Ishaq Haqqani as information minister and editor Najam Sethi as adviser on political affairs and accountability.

Mumtaz Bhutto, estranged uncle of the ousted premier, was named chief minister in Sindh province in an apparent ploy to weaken Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in its powerbase.

The Cabinet has approved an anti-corruption bill likely to be promulgated soon as a presidential ordinance in the first of a series of reforms planned by Law Minister Fakhruddin Ebrahim.

"My agenda is to bring an accountability bill which is fair and transparent," he told Reuters. "Then I want to bring amendments to election laws, a freedom of information act and the right to appeal against discretion of government officials."

Yet the anti-corruption, or accountability, bill has already been watered down to spare military officers from scrutiny.

Khalid's finance adviser Shahid Javed Burki, no loan from the World Bank, has unveiled sweeping plans for fiscal rectitude and structural reform. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it plans to resume a stalled lending program to Pakistan.

But Burki's assertion that

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Lebanon's Hariri Faces Gathering Opposition

BEIRUT, LEBANON (Reuters) - Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri faced a gathering storm of opposition after a mass meeting of critics from across the political and sectarian spectrum vowed to stop his plans to curb the media.

Friday evening's meeting of 700 politicians, unionists and media workers seeking to stop the planned closure of scores of private radio and television stations was the broadest demonstration of opposition Hariri has faced in four years in office.

It issued a series of demands going beyond the media issue to urge changes in the priorities of Hariri's ambitious reconstruction drive and on key issues like taxation, monetary policy, public debt, the budget deficit and interest rates.

Expressing concern about the burdens imposed on Lebanon by reconstruction, it urged the government "to reconsider the priorities of reconstruction and to strike a balance between the needs of the country and its ability to carry the burdens of those needs."

It also demanded cancellation of a ban on public demonstrations that Hariri has imposed since mid-1993 and support for a proposal by 10 parliamentary deputies to postpone the shutdown of radio and television stations.

Newspapers said the gathering showed that Hariri faced "a huge range of hostile forces". The fact that it took place at all raised questions about the attitude of Syria's leaders to the 52-year-old construction tycoon, they added.

Syria has an estimated 35,000 troops in Lebanon and is the country's main power broker. Lebanese politicians rarely make a move without going to Damascus for consultations.

Hariri, who has ruled since October 1992, formed his third government last week but is facing a groundswell of difficulties on the domestic front.



HARIRI

Newspapers called Friday's meeting an unprecedented gathering of hitherto mutually hostile politicians, parties and movements, both Muslim and Christian, galvanized into action against Hariri by a law due to close most private audiovisual media by November 30.

Participants included a galaxy of well-known politicians including three ex-premiers, an ex-speaker, 13 parliamentary deputies and even prominent Government Minister Walid Jumblatt who has become an outspoken critic of Hariri.

The parties present included the Hizbollah (Party of God), the pro-Syrian Arab Socialist Baath Party, which has a minister in Hariri's Cabinet, and the National Liberal Party, an anti-Syrian Nationalist Christian group.

The audiovisual law which has

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Environmentalists Warn Overfishing Threatens Tuna

ATHENS (Reuters) - Overfishing of Mediterranean and Atlantic tuna to satisfy an insatiable Japanese market is endangering the ancient species, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said recently.

"We're not talking average sushi and sashimi. A plate of bluefin at a Tokyo restaurant can cost up to \$200," WWF International Mediterranean Fisheries Coordinator Denetres Karavellas told a news conference.

About 70 percent of world tuna production comes from the Mediterranean sea where the most popular species is the bluefin tuna. Japan consumes 65-70 percent of world bluefin production.

Tuna, an important ecosystem predator mentioned in Homer's Odyssey, is very vulnerable to fishing and Japan's high demand makes it a prime target of both legal and illegal fishing, Karavellas said.

"A single giant bluefin can fetch as much as \$60,000 in Tokyo's Tsukiji market," Karavellas said.

Bluefin tuna can grow up to three meters (yards) long, reaching a weight of 900 kilos (1,984 lb). It reproduces after its fifth year, when it is about 150 kilos but few reach that size because the acceptable catching size is just 6.4 kilos, he added.

"The Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico are the bluefin's prime breeding areas. We are effectively fishing in its kindergarten," he said.

Between 1970 and 1993 the number of bluefins over the age of eight in the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean is estimated to have dropped by 87 percent, he said.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), founded by tuna producing countries in 1966 to

manage worldwide tuna fishing, meet in Spain this month to discuss recovery methods.

"ICCAT must decide whether to adopt the recovery methods recommended by its own scientific committee. But the fishing industry has a heavy influence on the decision," Karavellas said.

Fishing boats bypass ICCAT's regulations by using flags of non-ICCAT member countries or no flags altogether.

In a recent joint operation by Italian, French and Spanish customs, 40 such vessels were seen between the Balearic Islands and the Alboran Sea in six days, Karavellas said.

This illegal fishing production, estimated at eight million tons in 1985, does not show on ICCAT's charts, he added.

"ICCAT must set up effective monitoring systems to ensure the implementation of urgent recovery plans," Karavellas said.

Bedouin Tribesmen Strike it Rich by Raising and Selling Racing Camels

MUSCAT (AFP) - Bedouin tribesmen are striking it rich raising racing camels in the Omani desert and selling them to wealthy sheikhs in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where an athletic beast can fetch up to \$260,000.

"Raising meharis (racing camels) has become a flourishing trade with the bedouin and many are making fortunes," said Mubarak al-Habshi, who drives down Oman's backroads looking for camels to sell in the UAE.

"Some of the bedouin who had nothing a few years ago are now owners of spacious homes and luxury cars," Habshi told AFP.

Habshi's best customers are wealthy families in the UAE emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, where he travels with catalogues of photos and prices of the camels, so that they can buy them without having to travel to Oman.

Habshi, who himself sold three meharis last week for \$169,000 each, said sales from all the racing camels sold in the Sultanate of

Oman hit \$18.2 million last year.

The best time to sell racing camels is during the racing season, which began last month and attracts large crowds.

At least three races take place every week in Oman, where they are organized by private individuals, while those in the UAE come under the supervision of the authorities.

A camel which wins a race is likely to fetch a high price.

During a recent race, a UAE national bought a mehari, Samha, for \$182,000 as soon as the camel crossed the finish line, having run three kilometers (1.86 miles) in 4.44 minutes.

Said Ibn Diah al-Rabhi, an official in the Sultan's palace in Muscat, said one mehari broke the record when it was bought for \$260,000 after winning several races.

Training camels is serious business. It is not unusual to see trainers in four-wheel drive vehicles following camels that gallop over

the sand with their jockeys taking orders by mobile phone.

Jockeys are often children under ten years old and sometimes as young as five "so that they'll be as light as possible," Rabhi said.

In the UAE, where races are carried live on television, the authorities have set the weight limit for jockeys at 25 kilograms (55 pounds) while there is no such rule in Oman. Sultan Qaboos of Oman, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan al-Nahyan and the wealthy princes of the Persian Gulf all have their own stables.

"The Omanis are known for raising camels because they have a lot of experience in the field and have the best blood lines. What's more, the prices are much lower than those in the UAE," Rabhi said.

The different bedouin tribes which raise camels - like the Wabaha, Duruh or Janaba - brand their beasts with distinctive marks so they can recognize them.

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